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THE LAST SEVEN DAYS

COMPILED BY SASHA SOLSTYNE, MELISSA KIRKIN AND KRISTEN SLADECKI

WEEK IN REVIEW

DECEMBER 14-20, 2014

\$1,751,875.78

That's how much the U.S. Attorney's Office in Vermont expects to collect on criminal and civil settlements in fiscal year 2015.



PARDON ME

Don Pihlaviello sold his Adirondack cabin, a car loan and various employment-related tax obligations as a result of his 2005 conviction for mail-order energy drink purchases. A transcript left a paper trail in his track ... told Seven Days.

Robert Dimes was a selectboard member in Lyndonville when he got busted for cultivation and possession of pot, a decade ago and was convicted of misdemeanor. He got plenty of publicity stripped down from the board and as a prominent financial advisor, had to answer to federal regulators about it. A few weeks ago, while crossing the Committee border, customs officers grilled him about his case, I learned said.

"You can't imagine what a burden ... this kind of thing," Dimes, 68, told Seven Days reporter Mark Bauerlein. "It's been a year now ... a source of the whole 'Hiring a lawyer' debate."

Guy Peter Shurin announced December 8 that he would consider pardons for those convicted of misdemeanor marijuana possession. Shurin, who has pardoned only a half dozen people during his six years as attorney general, projected to consider hundreds, if not thousands of applications for pardon. He noted that possession of less than an ounce is no longer a crime in Vermont, and it made no sense to "hamstrung the lives of Vermonters indefinitely."

• • •
e-filing: Applicants should not have convictions for violent crimes or felonies.

A governor did not mention pardons for cultivators, and Dimes — who had to file his case along with a Pihlaviello — was unceremonious about his own legal woes.

As of Tuesday, roughly 400 people had filed online, pending review of their conviction cases, according to Shurin's office.

• • •
A deadline to apply is Christmas Day — December 25. Some have sold the process, undertaken in the waning days of Shurin's administration, is unlikely. Shurin plans to have the applications processed by the new governor-elect Phil Scott takes office January 7.

Read Devil's Fall post at sevendaysvt.com.



emoji that



ROBIE'S STRIP
New social rules will include what "emojis" to click on screen to show
yourself off.

STONE COLD
Stone cold is
getting a break
on Twitter. That's right.
dowmshere.com just
launched its first
Twitter feed.

SPIT CITY
Say River Walsh (D-
Vermont) has partnered
to start a local
monthly dance
"willie" for deaf!

STILL HILL
On Monday the
State of Vermont
will become
electoral votes for
Hillary Clinton. The
list of qualified did.

TOP FIVE

HIGH-PROFILE POLITICS: Shurin's Medicaid decision is a mixed bag.

- 1 **"My Seven-Year-Old Vermont House of Representatives Member Left Me!"** by Julie Cleary It was tough to choose from so many losers, but someone had to do it.
- 2 **"Worthington School Board Member Gets Honored With Name of Leveling"** by Holly Rosenblatt, Vermont Journal An unusual move to derive the name from an incident involving a school board meeting.
- 3 **"State Testing Mandates in Our Neighborhood"** by Hannah Ferraro Eggen, Seven Days The following are just some of the topics?
- 4 **"Death-By Marriage and the Class Strip"** by Sally Perle, Life Stage Writers Group owner Death by marriage is a real killer. After decades of just jewelry sales,
- 5 **"Waters' Great Penitentiary Pragmatism"**
"Liberate Us!" by John Waters, Seven Days PRF's focus on finding changes to better state employees and former passengers are funded, but labor unions are appearing like



**tweet of
the week:**

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CORRECTIONS WORKER CAUGHT

Brian Monteiro learned the hard way that the state credit cards he issued by the Department of Corrections didn't give him carte blanche to buy merchandise. On December 15, state police detectives arrested the 40-year-old corrections worker at the Middle Valley Regional Correctional Facility in Rensselaer on a count of a dozen state charges and to pay more than \$400 in personal items he had purchased at between June and November.



BURNING DOWN THE TOILET

Pennsylvania paid off the first investigations with the Vermont State Police, whose probe into the torching of two portable toilets at the Maine Woods in Waterford has been under way for more than five months. On December 12, police arrested 18-year-old Nathaniel Heckett of Johnson. 18-year-old Steven Stevens of Lyndon and an unidentified 15-year-old also from Lyndon, for deliberately setting aside two portable toilets at "the public restroom area," in which toilets were charged with the July 8 damage to a single-unit unit, and which had caused considerable public safety issues because of the lack of available facilities.



WHEN WRECKERS WRECK

Carroll Garage Rodriguez scattered only minor injuries and losses last week when his state police car was rear-ended on an off-ramp near the Interstate 89 exit 19, where a flatbed wrecker taking the Interstate began to fall. A truck plowed into the wrecker, pushing Rodriguez through the busy intersection and onto the median strip. A wrecker's driver, 68-year-old Gary House of Winooski, wasn't injured.

the owners and barred those students from attending, but because she never shares how they processed those expressions, it comes off as an unfortunate part of being black in Vermont. And spelling out the N-word without giving space to the weight of that word is problematic.

I hope your readers can expect some acknowledgement of how poorly this topic was handled. I always enjoyed Seven Days, but I'm so disappointed by how hurtful and race-deaf this article was.

Marge Woods
CORTLANDT

Selina's note: This story was a controversy itself, in anticipation of Syrena Fletcher's feedback for Burlington City Hall Park. (December 8) As the city seeks input for the redesign of City Hall Park, I'd like to put in a plug for the good old days of that urban space.

I used to walk through City Hall Park at all hours to and from my job at the Burlington Free Press. I found it to be a welcoming place but never more friendly than it was one sunny night in August 1994.

I lived in a third-floor apartment on South Champlain Street, across from the Chittenden County Courthouse. Next to the building was a vacant lot with patches of grass, green enough for house-training a puppy.

Kate was 2 months old and eager to please. One evening after workshift, I carried her down stairs and set her down to pee like a dogged, but back-upset we went.

At our apartment door I discovered we were locked out. I had no pockets to check for the key, because, well, I was wearing nothing but a tank top. I began rattling. Luckily, I kept a spare key at the Free Press.

I picked up pants, rinsed her below the waist and walked barefoot to the newspaper at City Hall Park. I took the disposal wiffleball that sits atop the fountain.

Clusters of people were hanging out in the park. We nodded at each other as I walked by. "Hey, how's it going?" a few men asked.

"When I got to the newsroom, the copy chief was proofing pages. He looked up from his work to see me and my puppy. 'Can I give you a kiss?' he asked.

Sally Polak
BURLINGTON

TAX'S TIME WILL COME

Rep. Mary Bellows (D-Burlington), mentioned in [our] June "Gazette Correspondent" (December 7), deserves kudos for making a courageous pitch for the carbon pollution tax at the recent Democratic caucuses. Local, limited opposition to the carbon tax may be worrying some Democrats and Republicans as well as the governor, but it's an approach that's needed now more than ever for Vermont to make significant headway on the carbon policies driving climate

change. I'm reminded of how initially controversial civil unions and the gay marriage were in the state legislature and how one tame, significant majority passed bills that positively addressed both. Reckoning the best is often a prerequisite for effective change. Yours, Rep. Stephen

Sally Conrad
BURLINGTON

BAREFOOT IN THE PARK

[Re Off Message, "Burlington Residents Feedback for Redesign of City Hall Park," December 8]: As the city seeks input for the redesign of City Hall Park, I'd like to put in a plug for the good old days of that urban space.

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"When I got to the newsroom, the copy chief was proofing pages. He looked up from his work to see me and my puppy. 'Can I give you a kiss?' he asked.

Sally Polak
BURLINGTON

CORRECTION

The name of violinist Nicholas Dubay was misspelled in last week's column instead of classical violinist Shlomo Koch.

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Now What?

Throughout his campaign for governor, Republican **PAUL SCOTT** was crystal clear about what he hoped to accomplish: Grow Vermont's economy and make the state more "affordable." Far less clear was how best to get that job done.

Now, with two weeks remaining before Scott takes office, the governor-elect's agenda is no less a mystery.

"We just honestly don't know what's going to come," says Rep. **JANET ANCEL** (D-Guilford), who chairs the House Taxes and Finance Committee.

Contributing to the uncertainty is the concurrent leadership transition at the federal and state levels. Scott will be the first Vermont governor to take office at the same time as a newly elected president **TRUMP** and **SENATE LEADERSHIP** in 2017. And Scott's campaign pledges were vague. Republican presidential **BORIS THOMAS** were potentially worrisome.

For Vermont state government, the consequences of Trump's early actions could be enormous. Will he dismantle state-based health insurance exchanges? Will he stop the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing its Lake Champlain cleanup mandate? Will he reverse Vermont's Inflation Index — or will he invent an inflationary program that fills our coffers and paves over roads?

"At a state, we are so dependent on federal policy and money — especially because we're such small states — and we have essentially no idea what the Trump administration is going to do," says Sen. **TERESA FERGUSON** (D-Chittenden), the Democratic nominee for House Speaker.

It won't like that when retiring Gov. **PETER SHUMPKIN** took office in 2010. Back then, the Palley Democrat had campaigned on a commitment shared by the incoming president, **BARACK OBAMA**, to expand access to health insurance and increase the government's role in providing it.

When Shumlin took office, he had all the support in the world — including massive federal grants — to turn his vision into reality. Within six months, he signed into law Act 44, a major restructuring of the state's health care system and a blueprint for single-payer.

It didn't hurt that Shumlin could count on his party's super-majority in the Vermont House and Senate to rubberstamp his agenda — at least at the start of his governorship.

Scott, it seems, won't have allies in the White House or the Statehouse — and

he hasn't foreshadowed any ambitious agenda.

So what exactly legislative Democrats will engage with Scott's agenda to-be-seen.

"There will be things we're going to want to work on together with the governor, and there are things we're going to stay strong on and try to pass," says Rep. **JASON KOLKOWSKI** (D-Burlington), the recently elected House majority leader.

The "things" for which House

Democrats may go in the fall include a higher minimum wage, paid family leave and better broadband, Kolkowski suggests.

"We're not going to check our values at the door," she says. "We're going to fight really hard for what we care about."

That fighting won't start immediately. All sides seem committed to finding areas of common ground, at least for now.

Rep. **MICHAEL JORDAN** (D-South Hero), the Democratic nominee for House Speaker

WE JUST HONESTLY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO COME.

REP. JANET ANCEL

met Monday with Scott at his transition offices in Montpelier.

"It was really just the warm fuzzy of, 'we're looking forward to working together,'" she says. "We think there is some good overlap in his priorities and the Hunger's interests."

Johnson, the outgoing chair of the House Appropriations Committee, has called on her committee chairs "to do a strong evaluation and presentation of state governments to really focus on good government." That's a concept Scott wholeheartedly supports.

Ash, who met with the governor-elect last month in Wisconsin, says he believes Scott and the Senate will find common cause addressing mental health treatment and opiate abuse. And while they may differ in their approaches to Lake Champlain cleanup, Asher says both branches of government are committed to the same goal.

Sen. **MICHAEL DURRANT** (R-Rutland), a policy adviser to the Scott transition team, says he's confident the legislature won't just tread water.

"I think it's going to be a very successful session. I really do," he says. "I think there are a lot of areas where the governor-elect and the new leadership is going to be able to work together."

In recent weeks, the transition team's most public work has been a steady stream of cabinet appointments. Last Friday, Scott named **STEPHEN GIBSON** executive director and former Burlington police chief **MARK SCHAFFNER** to serve as commerce secretary. He appointed **LINDSAY VANCE**, the co-owner of a Benzie Harbor convenience store and fuel hauling company, to be his commissioner of labor. On Tuesday, Scott announced that the entire leadership of the Department of Financial Regulation — Commissioner **MIKE PRESTON** and four deputies — would remain in place.

As they work to fill the rest of Scott's cabinet, his advisers are simultaneously drafting a budget and fleshing out his policy priorities, according to chief of staff-delegate **JASON KERNS**.

"The policy team is doing great work to convert the governor-elect's priorities into either administrative or legislative packages," he says. "And we are right on track to introduce the full-administrative policy proposals and administrative directives when takes office."

Gibson won't reveal specific proposals but points to two areas at which he expects collaboration with the Democratic legislature: "increasing the availability of housing" and "modernizing state government so that every dollar goes as far as can."

"I think that there's a lot of opportunity for the legislature and that this administration to work together, and the governor and his team are looking forward to it," Gibbons says.

And if the legislature isn't willing to play ball?

"A lot of this can be done administratively through some creative approaches to how these programs are administered," Gibbs says.

Now that's a framework.

Spin Room

As the legislature debated ethics reform last April, Sen. **MICHAEL DURRANT** (R-Chittenden) proposed prohibiting ex-legislators and cabinet officers from spinning straight through Montpelier's revolving door to a job at a registered lobbying firm.

An existing executive order already prevented administration officials from directly lobbying state officials for a year after leaving office, but there's a loophole as wide as State Street. Those governed by the rule can simply take a job at a firm, share their intel with colleagues and let

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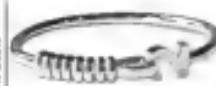
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others do the direct lobbying — at least until the “cooling off period” expires.

“In my mind, the distinction between lobbying firms and lobbyists is an artificial one,” says Sedorick, himself a former lobbyist.

Sedorick’s amendment failed by a vote — and the underlying ethics bill died in the House soon thereafter. So the revolving-door controversy continues to spin.

Soon to pass through it is **Senate Bill 104**, which announced Monday he’ll return to Downs Rachlin Martin next month, when his tenure in the Senate’s top ethics official concludes.

Martin didn’t hold that job for long. The former Agency of Natural Resources deputy secretary took over in October after his immediate predecessor, **James Johnson**, left to join another Montpelier lobbying firm, MMG.

He was soon ousted by the Executive Code of Ethics. When they launched discussions with their future employers — in Martin’s case, on December 1 — they sent Johnson’s chief of staff memo discussing their negotiations and recusing themselves from potential conflicts. In Martin’s memo, he said he’d never allow discussions involving such DRIM clients AT&T, VELOC, VTE, Vermont Gas and FairPoint Communications.

Though he lobbied for DRIM earlier in his career, Martin says he has no place to go if he were to return to the firm.

“When I go back, the idea is I’ll be building a practice around somebody else that I’ve developed in the last five years at the state,” he says, pointing specifically to his work on clean-water regulations.

Now DRIM external affairs manager

isn’t concerned. “The skills that you learn by working in government can only help when you want to represent clients in the private sector.”

But isn’t that the point of revolving-door bars — to keep private entities from pooling off public-sector information and access?

“I wouldn’t be going there if I thought I was just trading in on that experience,” Martin says, adding, “I have a family. I have folks that I’m taking care of. So I’m taking the best and most exciting opportunity that I can.”

PARTISAN sees it similarly. The former Republican representative from Donisthough from the House in August to launch a consulting and lobbying practice. She hasn’t yet secured any lobbying clients, but she worked for the Grafton Woodlands Group that fell as it fought a wood-project in southern Vermont.

“It’s a very small issue. I think there’s limited jobs for the experienced people here,” she says. “You can try to visibility. We’re just trying to pay our bills and pay our property tax.”

Take a Chair

Vermont’s about to experience some serious government turnover — from House speaker to Senate president to Governor — but one class of political leaders is likely to stay the same committee chairs.

If the tally near the House, Johnson says, the experts to return most of sitting Speaker **SHARON MARTIN** (D-Montgomery) leadership team, though there will be vacancies on three committees: appropriations, natural resources and energy, and government operations.

“As a former, I believe in passing on make room for growth,” she says. “But there’s already a very significant amount of change in the upper.”

Abe expects similar continuity in the Senate, where only the Finance Committee chairmanship, which Abe currently holds, will be vacant.

Still to be decided is who will serve as Senate majority leader now that Sen.

PHIL MARSH (D-Chittenden)

is giving up the post. Sen.

MECCA MALLAY (D-Windham), a second-term lawmaker, is the only declared candidate —

and the chance to have support from all of

23 Democrats and Progressives.

“I’ve been doing my own court, and I feel confident that I will become majority leader,” she says.

But Sen. **ANN WOOD** (D-Chittenden) says she’s also considering running. While taking a statehouse position would bring geographic diversity to the leadership team, Lyons would bring more experience. She has served in the Senate for 14 years.

Lyons concedes that majority leader is less powerful post in the Senate than the House, is a fallback option. She’d “very much prefer” to regain a chairmanship. That’s why she and her allies are hoping committee assignments will be doled out before Democrats pick their majority leader in January.

Unlike the House, where the speaker makes committee assignments unilaterally, Senate chairmanships are divided by the secretary, three-member Committee on Committees. That panel will have new members this year while the legislature and Governor-elect **DANIEL DUGGAN**.

But just because the committee will

feature two Democrats/Progressives hybrids doesn’t mean it will become any more transparent — and open its doors to the public and the press.

“When you’re discussing people personal conflicts with each other, that’s really a personal matter,” Blackmer says.

“There are decisions that are as different than any organization when they have personnel decisions,” Abe adds.

“Should we make open the performance evaluations of reporters if they want to be so transparent?”

Huh. Last I checked, reporters don’t work for voters. Benois-ib

Media Notes

A little over two years ago, political reporter **ALICE KEENE** left Chicago’s WBEZ to host Vermont Public Radio’s broadcast of “All Things Considered.” Now, the voice of VPR’s afternoon and evening programming is headed back to the Windy City to serve as WBEZ’s senior editor of government and politics.

“It was just too good to pass up,” he says of the new gig. “It’s kind of a dream job for someone who grew up in Chicago.”

Keene says he’s particularly disappointed to leave behind “Draw Little State,” the Vermont-centric podcast he launched last summer with **TYRONE AMBROZIA**. According to VPR, senior vice president **JESSIE VAN HORN**, the podcaster will continue under Keene’s leadership, and the station will launch a search for a new host of ABC.

Endorse: Tim Ashe is the domestic partner of Seven Days public-affairs and editor Paula Royle.

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An Ambitious Muslim Politician Navigates Uncertain Times

BY MARK GRAY

Only a few people turned out last month to hear Winona city councilors deliberate whether to pursue "sanctuary city" status for their burg. Faiz Gill was one of them. His task? By pleading to question people about their immigration status, Winona could draw the unconstitutional accusation of federal law enforcement, he said, while offering undocumented immigrants no real protection.

Gill knew what he spoke. As he pursued a career in politics, from Virginia to Vermont, the Pakistani-born Muslim has been targeted by surveillance and digging by agencies that have his terrorist connections.

He's passed political party跃iathas, too. Since moving to Vermont in 2003, Gill has made himself a player in state Democratic politics — networking, editing campaign checks and volunteering for any government gig that comes along. That's where he ran unsuccessfully for the Virginia House of Delegates — as a Republican.

In August, Gill lost a Democratic primary bid for a state Senate seat representing Chittenden County. As a consolation prize, he was elected December 1 as chair of the Chittenden County Democratic Party. While he gamely offers the sound publition about trading in the grassroots, he is far bussing about his goal of winning a seat in the state legislature as soon as possible.

"Of course I'm going to run again," Gill said during a recent interview at Winona's downtown Scott & Co. cafe, where he exchanged winks and banter gleefully with many customers. "I'm not going to say, 'Oh, if the opportunity is there,' I'm not going to insult your intelligence."

Gill is a self-employed lawyer who represents government contractors, mainly in the D.C. area from his home in downtown Winona. His clients have included SteelPath, an international defense contractor. He also runs Gill Investment Group, which he says has interests in real estate ventures and companies with government contracts.

His first name, Faiz, rhymes with "caric," but the 44-year-old man with dark, neatly parted hair never conveys the easy people who bathe it. He wears crisp collared shirts that fit snappily over his middle-of-the-road pants.

Gill was born into a middle-class family in Rancho. When he was 8 years old, his parents immigrated to the United States, settling in northern Virginia.

They both worked long hours — his father drove a cab, and his mother worked in a department store closer — so Gill and his younger brother, Kaseer, were often left to their own devices. Gill said he got into a lot of trouble in and out of school and barely graduated from Annandale High School.

In an anecdote he shared on the campaign trail, Gill recalled his father making him and Kaseer ride along during a lengthy shift in their dad's cab. At day's end, the father told his weary boys, "Now you have a choice: You can be in the front seat of the cab or the backseat of the cab."

"That was our score-set-straight moment," Gill said.

Another came soon after, when, at 10, he got his first friend pregnant. They later married.

Determined to make something of himself, Gill enrolled in community college, then D.C.'s American University, graduating with a degree in political science.

He stayed there to attend law school, after which he served five years in the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps — its legal shop. He eventually landed a senior position in George W. Bush's Department of Homeland Security, where, according to media reports, he had a hand in intelligence policy. He was friendly with conservative political kingdommaker Grover Norquist.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT
TAXES, SCHOOLS, ROADS...
IF THERE'S COMMON GROUND,
WE'RE GOING TO FIND IT.

FAIZ GILL

Gill's career was moving right along until it was interrupted by allegations that could have come from a spy novel.

In 2004, Salois reported that Gill, still employed with Homeland Security, had previously worked with the then-reclusive American Muslim Council — he served in its spokesman — and that he had failed to report that on security clearance form. The council's former leader, Abdurahim Abusoud, was under federal indictment for money laundering related to terrorism, held currently serving time in prison.

Gill was briefly placed on leave and investigated after the report, but he maintained then and now that his work with the council had nothing to do with terrorism.

A DHS inspector general's investigation cleared him of any wrongdoing, but he left the agency in January 2008 because, he said, he no longer felt comfortable there.

He started a solo law practice and began to indulge his passion for politics. He became active in the GOP in D.C.s

northern Virginia suburbs and, in 2002, ran for a seat in Virginia's House of Delegates.

Aracks came from both ends of the political spectrum. His Democratic opponent accused him of helping illegal immigrants avoid deportation on the grounds that Gill took some immigration cases. Several Republicans' bloggers debated whether he was connected to terrorism. Even some of his friends failed to back him; he said this loss was, he said, a brutal lesson in identity politics.

Starting from his first electoral experience and fed up with D.C. life, Gill uprooted his family and moved to southern California, where he served as general counsel and, at one point, seeing CEO of Apex Investment Group, U.S.-trained engineer Abdallah Al-Jabri and his brother founded the Dromedary Portland, Ore.-based company that specializes in "explosive" stabilized biomass imports from the Middle East, according to its website.

While they were living in California, Gill and wife divorced. He had visited her in Boston, and never fully familiar with Vermont when he decided to move northward with two of his three children; son Kaseer is now a senior at the University of Vermont; daughter Zara, 13, attends the Vermont Commons School. His oldest son stayed in California and won law school there.

Gill rented a luxury apartment in the Ripton complex at Winona Falls, he said, because of the city's diverse population and its plentiful bars and eateries. He's a regular at nearby Waterworks Food + Drink.

Not all controversies followed him. In 2010, Gill was honored in a story written by journalist Glenn



Burlington Housing Authority Mum on Leadership Shuffle

BY MOLLY WALSH

A leadership shake-up at the Burlington Housing Authority may signal trouble at one of the region's most important providers of affordable housing. The BHA is home to thousands of vulnerable Vermonters, including some who are mentally ill.

Top-level personnel changes came to light last week. That's when long-time property maintenance director Christopher Zumbro, hired as executive director in April after a national search, had the equivalent job at a housing authority in York, Pa., Zamkow took over for Paul Dermott, who left in May after leading BHA for 20 years.

The quiet announcement of their new roles did not mention the person they are replacing: Craig Zimmerman, hired as executive director in April after a national search, had the equivalent job at a housing authority in York, Pa., Zamkow took over for Paul Dermott, who left in May after leading BHA for 20 years.

Zimmerman was placed on paid leave in October, and he resigned this month, according to BHA board chair Mike Knaus.

Problems involving the new executive director started surfacing in early July, according to an email plaintiff found among court papers in an unrelated \$12-million dispute pending in Vermont Superior Court.

In the email message, Knaus warned board members — who are appointed by Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger — about emerging conflicts under the headline "Heads-Up: Issues with the Executive Director material."

"We writing each commissioner to let you know that there are enough signs to trigger a transition," Knaus wrote. "I have talked and/or consulted with several of the managers. There appear to be many management style, culture, personality, expectation, etc. issues that have arisen during the last couple months since Craig took over the helm."

He continued: "I had lunch with Craig earlier this week and he brought up the rough edges as well.... My judgment of this point is that the situation is at a minimum a very strong case of insulation issues, which you could expect some or with any change—but it is also potentially more deep-seated and may



Mike Knaus, chair of the Burlington Housing Authority board

be something that we, Craig and management staff will all have to work very hard to fix."

Records from board meetings also indicate director-level problems at Vermont's oldest and largest municipally chartered housing authority. By August, the board was routinely going into private executive sessions to discuss "paramount issues." On August 16, mediator and facilitator Jennifer Kneller, Mike Knaus' daughter-in-law, joined in — free of charge, according to her father-in-law — and there was talk about grievance procedures. Zimmerman phoned in later that evening, according to board records. The next month, a labor lawyer met with the board behind closed doors.

Knaus and Monday that a separation agreement involving Zimmerman should be signed this week, but he declined to discuss the reasons for the new director's departure. Zimmerman did not respond to messages from *Vermont Days* seeking comment.

Several other board members also declined to talk about the matter, including journalist Garrett Goff. He's the former editor of *Poet's Magazine* who considered a run for Burlington

governor earlier this year. He has been on the five-member BHA board since September.

The Burlington Housing Authority was created decades ago as part of the nationwide "urban renewal" that demolished many low-income city buildings. As the agency has also participated in some handsome renovations of historic buildings.

There's a long line of people waiting for affordable units at those properties. Currently, 1,700 people are on the list for Section 8 vouchers, according to acting executive director Goff. Some of those have been waiting as long as 10 years to get to the front. When BHA comes through, federal law requires that residents pay 30 percent of their income toward rent, with certain exceptions.

Some of the BHA's tenants have mental illnesses, which can create challenges. Last March, that contributed to one tenant's death.

Ralph "Phil" Grasso lived in a BHA building downtown at 301 College Street. The 76-year-old, who suffered from paranoid schizophrenia, was living alone because he randomly yelled at and threatened people. Police and

PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STARTED SURFACING AS EARLY AS JULY.

mental health workers had suspended him from his apartment more than once, before he was getting worse.

Policemen had been summoned yet again when Grenon charged at them with two knives and was finally shot.

Although a review by Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan concluded that a law enforcement officer was justified in shooting Grenon, the incident led to a public outcry. It prompted Police Chief Brendon Pollio to instruct new protocols for police responses to individuals in mental health crisis.

Now, Burlington City Councilor Dave Hartnett (D-North District) is leading a push to advise affordable housing providers, including BHA, to be more careful about evictions of residents with mental health issues. Grenon's brother, Len, is one of Hartnett's constituents.



Dave Hartnett, acting city councilor for the North Ward, is pushing for more lenient rules for evicting people with mental health issues.

BHA and other affordable housing groups planned to come up with better systems to keep mentally ill people housed, and Hartnett, who first floated the idea of a resolution in November and plans to introduce a revised resolution at a city council meeting on January 25.

He helped organize a meeting of affordable housing providers at the Fletcher Free Library that fall. Managers from Cathedral Square, Champlain Housing Trust and BHA were among the attendees.

"What we were told at that meeting was that there's many more Phil Grenons in the system," Hartnett said. "There's got to be better outcomes than what happened at 101 College — we're trying to help the next person."

Hartnett added: "I'm not arguing the fact that BHA probably should have been evicted. To me, these just didn't seem to be a lot of follow-through at Burlington Housing."

Sarah Russell, director of housing retention at BHA, said workers take steps to help mentally ill tenants pay bills on time, set up appointments with health care providers and tap into special programs to pay back rent.

When the BHA starts the eviction process with a termination letter, residents can appeal. Appeals are often granted, Russell said, especially if landlords can demonstrate they are taking steps to assess tenants' mental health behaviors.

"But occasionally people do get evicted," she allowed. "A lot of times residents are resistant to engaging, especially when there are mental health issues," Russell said.

One of the top problems is when tenants who need mental health services won't accept them, said Michael Moore, chief operations and financial officer at Champlain Housing Trust. "If an individual doesn't want support, they are not going to take it. We are really sort of at a roadblock," Moore said.

Wassberg said the problem is bigger than Burlington. "I feel, ultimately ... that we as a state don't have enough options for people who are facing very serious mental health situations."

The mayor declined to discuss the reasons for leadership turnover at BHA, which employs approximately 60 people. "My sense is that it's a strong board and that they are working hard to come through this period, and I'm confident that they will," he said.

For the time being, Barrett will share the director role with Lanceman, who has an impressive résumé. She served in the Obama administration from 2009 to 2012, including stints as chief financial officer for the executive office of the president, and as Michelle Obama's chief of staff during the 2012 re-election campaign. Lanceman is married to Champlain College president Donald Lanceman. She is also a certified public accountant.

Lanceman did not respond to requests for comment about the search.

Barrett clarified that he isn't applying for the directorship. So his new digs — the roomy corner office reserved for the director at 66 Main Street — are temporary. ☐

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Shumlin Talks, Reluctantly, About Governing Without a 'Fear Gene'

BY TERRI HALLENBECK

Peter Shumlin didn't want to do this. He didn't want to sit for an exit interview and talk about the highs and lows of his four years as Vermont's governor.

After several paces — he had to do it for history's sake, I argued — the departing Democrat acquiesced to an hourlong sit-down in his office.

I took his reluctance as an indication he'd tried hard of getting her up by journalists and on social media, of the constant retaking of his message, of the mopping of the high-profile 24/7 job.

I had watched Shumlin — literally — as he walked into the governor's office in January 2011, after I covered his campaign and his previous four years as Senate leader. He was a wry, upbeat Renaissance man of a politician with but a smidg of gray in his hair. Now 60 years old, he has bags under his eyes, lots of gray and a been-there, had-enough look about him.

He had success as governor, most notably leading the state's recovery from Tropical Storm Irene and driving national attention to opiate addiction.

But there have been some rough stretches. Technical problems plagued his highly touted state-wide health insurance exchange, and financial scandal rocked the Northeast Kingdom development projects he championed.

Somewhere around the halfway point of his time in office, he went from covering the news media to treating us like an interestingly advisory. He grew distant from a legislature dominated by his own party. Once Mr. Sun, he no longer seemed to be having any.

But no, Shumlin insisted as we launched into the legacy interview, he wasn't looking to avoid this discussion because he's tired of the media or the job.

"I'm as big as leg-sendas," he said. "I'm not one that looks back."

That's true, according to those who have worked with him. "He's a forward, not a backward, looker," said Jim Miller, a lawyer who served with Shumlin for four years — as his public service commissioner and then as chief of staff.

Four years as governor have changed Shumlin. What happened to the guy who was an eager to be governor of Vermont?

POLITICS



TERRI HALLENBECK

Growing up in Putney, Shumlin took to politics early on. He listened to Martin Luther King Jr. speeches on reel-to-reel tape in the closet of his childhood bedroom. As a dyslexic boy who struggled to read, he learned to shine thanks to his gift of gab.

Over three decades, he worked his way up from the Putney Selectboard to the Vermont House and Senate, where he served two stints as president pro tem.

In a come-from-behind 2010 campaign, he out-hustled four Democratic primary opponents and then Republicans Brian Fruhauf and Tom Clegg.

He promised to get "rough things done," and many of them he did.

As a legislator, he had a reputation for being a bull in the china shop, talking of a lot of people and then charging his way back into their good graces. He was a driving force behind Vermont's same-sex marriage law and the fight against pharmaceutical companies.

As governor, he remained true to that style — but every accomplishment

served to offend someone, and he couldn't possibly charm everyone back. His renewable energy push provoked outrage from a growing cadre of wind-power opponents. His support of the Addison Natural Gas Project jeopardized environmentalists.

Vermont problems with the state's health insurance exchange, Vermont Health Connect, suggested he couldn't get rough things done — at least not this particular mega-million-dollar IT project that was ensorcelled to a standstill that went belly-up.

When he dropped plans for a single-payer, government-financed health plan, after handily winning reelection in 2014, he lost some of his most ardent liberal supporters.

So it is that the man who strove to be governor now talks wistfully of returning to Putney with his wife of one year, Katie Done, whom he described as his "sunniest of suns." He prays for people to call him "Peter" again instead of "governor."

He may not like to look back, but I know Tim is not alone in wondering how well Shumlin he remembered as Vermont's last governor?

After our interview, I walked over to the Statehouse steps to watch him light the Christmas tree. On the chilly December evening, park-club residents dashed through their parents' legs.

Michael Ouchesewski, the recently-chosen commissioner of state Buildings and General Services, introduced Shumlin. Disregarding the crowd's eagerness to see the lights come on — and to sample the hot chocolate that awaited — Ouchesewski talked briefly about his book.

Shumlin, he said, would look fondly on Shumlin as one of the most effective Vermont governors.

"He took on unpopular things or things that were difficult to do politically," Ouchesewski explained later. "He went by a maxim that it's better to try and fail than to not try at all."

Many of Shumlin's boldest moves have yet to yield fruit, Ouchesewski said, citing the governor's work boosting organ donation and linking doctors' ability to prescribe.

Miller made the same point about Shumlin's work establishing universal access to prekindergarten programs. "That's a big deal," she said. "It's going to take time to develop, but it's going to mature."

Shumlin's friends and foes agreed he's been an aggressive governor.

"Intransigent" was looking for perhaps a more astute governor. That's what he's done," said Ted Stoff, who served as Shumlin's chief of staff for his first two years in office. "He understood his political capital could start to deplete the day after he took office."

Shumlin was not active, signed Rep. Mike Schreiman (D-Stowe), who said she suffered from both the cost and complications of buying insurance through Vermont Health Connect.

"He wanted a chicken in every pot,

free health care for everybody," she said. "I don't think he set the expectation at the right level."

"That's the curse of the Shumlin Democrats — they want to do things," said Steve Kimball, who worked for Shumlin on health care reform during his first two years in office.

Kimball, like others who know Shumlin well, said the governor was undiscerning by nature. "He's a little too self-confident for his own good," Kimball said.

Shumlin, when asked recently about his willingness to fly in the stretch H-80 Gulls, and has always lacked the "guts" to do it, offered an apt analogy for how he reacts to most things: Kimball said.

More caution might have served Shumlin back in 2013, when the governor plunged into a deal to buy his cognitively impaired next-door neighbor's house. Jeremy Dodge's friends cried foul, saying that Shumlin took advantage of him.

Shumlin claimed he was trying to help Dodge, who was about to lose his home to foreclosure. But public outcry forced the governor to end the deal and to become Dodge's mortgage holder. Shumlin argues that it's all worked out; Dodge still lives in the house and is making good on his obligations.

But the episode plagued Shumlin, reinforcing Vermonters' uneasiness with his sometimes cavalier style.

"Whether it deserved to or not, it appeared a fucking people had," said departing House Speaker Shap Smith (D-Merrimack).

Smith argued, as Shumlin did, that the Dodge deal should not be remembered as a defining element of Shumlin's tenure.

But the controversy did coincide with the decline of Shumlin's popularity. During the 2014 campaign, voters repeatedly informed us it as they tried to peer finger on why they'd lost faith in Shumlin. The two-term senator came within roughly 2,000 votes of losing to a Republican novice, Scott Milne.

The Dodge controversy also seemed to change Shumlin's relationship with the media. He became a less enthusiastic interviewee; he stopped trying to charm us.



Shumlin dismissed my reasoning: "I love the media," he told me, as of saying so made it true. His wife was less diplomatic. When he started dating Diane, who is half his age, the Vermont press held off revealing the relationship until the couple started showing up together at official events. Nonetheless, she took part in various Vermont media events in a series of gawkish sculptures that Shumlin displayed as his ceremonial Statehouse office in June, after the legislature adjourned.

Those who know Shumlin say neither the Dodge deal nor any single event was the trigger, but that Shumlin did face a lot of negativity that, over time, became increasingly fierce.

Snowy changed, said Alex MacLean, who was Shumlin's campaign manager in 2008 and then served as his deputy chief of staff for three years. Her former boss was the first Vermont governor to fail the test of social media, MacLean said. Everything he said and did unleashed a torrent of dismissive critics.

"It's brutal to be a public official in this day," she said. "You have people hiding behind their computers saying anything."

While Shumlin's relationship with the public and the press may have changed, staffers said, he was about his business the same way he did not dwell on what people thought of him.

"The governor, from my experience, really remained focused on what he wanted to accomplish," Miller said. "He did it from the moment I watched. 'Time is short, and we've got a lot to get done!'

Shumlin lays claim to a sensible list of accomplishments. He risked, rather than averted, the help of aides, deferring to characterize any single one as most significant. "All of them," he said.

"We delivered on almost every single item we had," Shumlin said, leaning back in a wooden office chair with his feet up on another chair.

He had pledged to shut down Vermont Yankee. In 2004, the nuclear power plant closed, though its owners said it was the market, not the governor, that forced their hand.

"They sold the lights would go out."

SHUMLIN TIMES: SP/PDO

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when Yankee closed, Shumlin said. Instead, Vermont has the second-lowest electric rates in New England.

He had pledged to expand renewable energy, and on his watch the state saw a boom in wind and solar projects. In the last year, Vermont has gotten 4,400 new clean-energy jobs, Shumlin maintained, bringing the state's total to 12,000.

Even on health care, for which he has faced the most criticism, Shumlin cited progress. "The number of uninsured Vermonters dropped from 6.5 percent of the population to 2.7 percent, though some of that decline can be attributed to the federal Affordable Care Act. The much-anticipated 'silver' payment model he negotiated with the federal government could finally bend the curve of health care costs, he contended.

I'M MORE SOBER ABOUT HOW TOUGH IT IS TO GET TOUGH THINGS DONE.

BY PETER SHUMLIN

One of Shumlin's most-rehearsed achievements came after Tropical Storm Irene hit an August 2011, eight months into his first term.

The storm killed six Vermonters, shredded hundreds of miles of roads and bridges and flooded the state government's largest office building in Waterbury.

Shumlin was credit for both his emotional and legislative responses. He was considerate of those who lost homes and family. He was clerk of the works in rebuilding roads and offices.

"I like to pose to that crisis will be seen as one of his finest hours," South said. "He was unwilling to let people say, 'We can't do this, we can't afford it.' There are a lot of people who would not rise to that challenge."

While Irene might have been a positive high point for Shumlin, he rates it as his toughest situation. Never mind the grief he got over Vermont Health Connect, he said. It was far more difficult to deal with the real grief he saw at the funerals of those who were swept away in the storm.

"I don't think you can prepare for that kind of unscripted tragedy," he said. "You're supposed to be the one who can fix it."

How has that burden changed him? I asked.

"I'm more sober," he said, "about how tough it is to get tough things done." ☐

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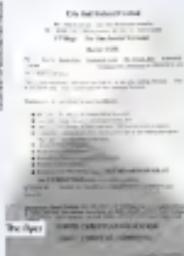
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EXCERPTS FROM THE BLOG

Anti-Semitic Flyers at City Hall Cause a Stir

Burlington police say anti-Semitic flyers distributed at Burlington City Hall Auditorium before Monday night's city council meeting were the work of someone believed to suffer from mental illness.

The person whose name was not released has engaged in similar activity in the past, police said. The flies "will not be investigated as a crime." Instead, police said they will work with the Howard Street Outreach team to refer the person for treatment.



It makes several references to "Werminger," which is Jewish, and launched his mayoral campaign in September 2011. He was elected in 2012. Whoever person who was selected in 2012 is, breeding in China with his family.

There was no public comment on the flyers at Monday's meeting, and the council declined address the issue.

"We have seen some really ugly put-on our desk before ... I can't remember something specifically like this," Councilor Kurt Wright said Tuesday.

Katie Aeding contributed reporting to this story.

MURK DAVIS

Arctic Sailor in Burlington Harbor Calls it Quits

Burlington sailor Mario Lata, who planned to spend the winter living aboard his experimental sailboat at Burlington Harbor called it quits on Monday after enduring last week's blast of Arctic temperatures.

Lata, 72, is a retired sheepherder from Montpelier who built the 20-foot sailboat, *Sled* — a hybrid stabilized invent

in the Arctic. The vessel can be hauled out of the water and pulled across the ice.



Lata has lived more than half of his life aboard sailboats around the world and has visited 140 countries. He lives on Lake Champlain in a small cabin. He says cold weather proved too much even for this world traveler.

"I tell you the truth, that last week was so miserable that I almost left here to go to the Arctic and come back," Lata told Seven Days after hauling the boat back to Burlington on Monday. Since the sailboat's tires were caked over with ice, "They had to cut them off."

Lata's unconventional-living craft, which he describes as a "mobile log cabin" and rapidly disappearing sea ice, attracted considerable local attention — and concern. Because the boat sits so low in the water, visitors to Burlington's waterfront marveled at the 12-foot cabin quiet enough to catch it on its seaward side.

It was Lata's son who first lured his father that sleeping aboard the homemade vessel in the dead of winter might not be such a bad idea.

"They say, which has been 25 years and still works, climb in with 'Dad, are you nuts?'" Lata said. "That sound a lot."

KEN RICHARD



Despite Hefty New Fines, Truck Drivers Still Try the Notch

Truck drivers and buses have long been prohibited from driving through the Smuggler's Notch, but a new law implemented July 1 imposes a stiff financial penalty if and when drivers violate the enforcement and safety division director at the State Department of Motor Vehicles.

Since then, no drivers were ticketed for "impeding the flow of traffic" — yet again — in the Notch, a section of Route 105. That offense carries a fine of \$2,347. Authorities issued no such tickets, but the DMV is a driver who violated the禁令 who will face a fine of up to \$2,347. The state legislature passed the new rules in April.

Four drivers were cited; one was dismissed and two other cases are pending, according to Vermont Transportation Commissioner John T. Dooley.

Smuggler's Notch warning cones are draped on the tight turns, several each of all different sizes to squeeze through — and get stuck. Often drivers from out of state follow DMS directions and ignore those of the home state, then disregard the signs according to Dooley.

Before July 1, commercial drivers who got stuck could only be ticketed for failing to obey a "traffic control device," which carries a relatively paltry \$252 fine.

"It's just really dangerous for a passenger car," Dooley said, while the warning cones are "backwards." "There are some nice legal technicalities not there, but it's one of those things we'll continue to talk about. What can we do to improve?"

SARAH GOLDSTEIN

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Green Writers Press Is Flourishing, in Vermont and Beyond

BY MARGOT HARRISON

When indie poet **RAYMOND KIRKILL** sought a publisher for what he knew could be his last words, he called up **DEREK CUNNINGHAM**, founder of **GREEN WRITERS PRESS** in Brattleboro. "He said, 'I have three books. I want you to publish all of them,'" recalls Cunningham in a phone interview. "I stayed on the phone without even reading anything."

Waiting with Kirkill to prepare his manuscripts for publication was "really an honor," Cunningham says. "He was a very focused, organized man. He had everything all laid out."

On September 25, 2006, Kirkill passed away. On December 12, GWP published his *Breath Wing*, a prose allegory about a mountain chester who meets a wounded blackbird from the elements. Two more books will follow.



Brett Cunningham (left) and Rosemarie Assmann (right)

Why have respected authors with long publication records — such as Kirkill and poet **LILIAN KNORR**, who also died in September — entrusted their work to this 2-year-old publication house that Cunningham barely admits has tiny bookkeepers and "no staff"?

Perhaps they were enticed by poetry press such as a 2008 *Publishers Weekly* article called "Green Writers Press Spouts in Vermont." Or by evidence that the "green" in the company's name isn't merely environmental. GWP's stated mission is "to incorporate and facilitate the gift of words to help foster a sustainable environment." Cunningham has her books printed on Forest Stewardship Council-approved paper and gives a percentage of profits to climate-focused nonprofit 350.org.

Even more importantly, perhaps, the longtime book designer and fledgling publisher creates her list — which includes fiction, nonfiction, poetry and even kids' picture books — with an eye to coherence. In the author, Kirkill's bloodied allegory might not seem to have much in common with fellow recent GWP releases *Chicago Moon and Other Stories*, by Coffeyville author **Clarence Major**; *Tet*, by **Suzanne Major** — a finalist for the National Book Award in poetry in 1998 — appraised Cunningham because he liked the company's mission, she relates.

Such works are unified, Cunningham suggests, by their themes of empathy, sustainability and social justice expressed in a strong literary voice. "In terms of the aesthetic outcome," she says, "I feel like we all need to work together even more, to make our voices heard."

And GWP is certainly working. Since its founding in 2003, the press has published works by 45 authors, garnering prizes and partnerships with local organizations such as **VERMONT POETRY CENTER** along the way. With a slew of Vermont authors on its list and novelist **HORACE STANKE MUSKER** on its advisory board, GWP has

become a backdrop of the local literary scene. It puts out an annual print journal called the *Flapper* and hosts weekly book lounge events at Brattleboro music venue the *Caveat*. This March, the company will collab a trip to Cuba for "environmental writing and adventure."

With all that activity, GWP is "growing almost too fast," says Cunningham, for a business that she glibly describes as a labor of love. "I have to keep saying that I don't have any money," she says. "But it's true! I really haven't made a dime" (GWP is registered as an LLC, or "house").

Cunningham still works a day job — designing books and, occasionally, agreeing to — and runs GWP from a tiny shared office space. She describes herself as "founder, designer, designer, managing editor, pageager." The editors on her roster are free-lancers, ranging from **MARJORIE ALTHAMER LEAHAN**, who directs GWP's children's program and draws steady income, to **Masker**, who is editing a posthumous collection of Knorri's poems gratis.

In a departure from the standard trade-publishing model, authors whose work Cunningham selects for publication may be asked to pay for the services



of those or other editors. "I don't like the term 'hybrid press,'" she says — referring to an increasingly common business model in which authors pay a publisher to print their books. "They're not paying us to publish. We're an acquisitions press" — that is, a selective one. (GWP gets a couple of hundred submissions per year, Cummings says, including the occasional manuscript from a literary agent.)

"We ask the author to get the manuscript ready for us," she explains. "We do an assessment." Then she suggests an editor, with whom the author can "negotiate a very reasonable estimate."

For instance, Cummings levered a manuscript submission from Lisa Skrymer, a States Award-winning author and activist from the Pacific Northwest, whom she describes as "such a badass." The manuscript needed revision, though, so Skrymer "found an editor in her area who volunteered to work on her book," Cummings says.

Another scrappy GWP author is Michaela Elder, College professor extraordinaire, whose acclaimed essays and writings on environmental literature have been published by university and trade presses. GWP put out his *Picking Up the Blue: A Migrant Through Maine* last summer.

In a phone interview, Elder says Cummings approached him after reading his essays about learning to play the blues for retirement, which had a posted online. "It's been very informal," he says of the process. Elder transformed his essays into a book with Alessandro-Lucchi's help. "I was delighted for the chance to develop it in this way with editors who were really encouraging and who wanted to push me to do more," he says.

He didn't pay for those editorial services, Elder asserts, "nor did I get an advance." Cummings, he notes, "designed the book, and it's beautiful."

Indeed, says Cummings, once the manuscript is in shape, "What I bring to the table is a complete book-design package." She also brings the services of distributor Multipoint Trade Books. That means authors get a smaller share of net profits — Multipoint splits 20 percent; authors split the remainder, 50-50 with GWP — but there's a greater likelihood that their books will be sold in stores,

GWP does both print-on-demand and offset printing, with some of the latter done at Springfield Printing Corp. As for promotion, "We share the work of marketing and publicity," says Cummings, who likes to have monthly phone meetings with authors. She assures them they don't have to "pour the pavement" if they don't want to, but "I don't want anyone to think they're going to have a publicity team," she clarifies. "We're not a big operation."

One thing she's learned, Cummings says, is that the year between acquisition and publication is the "most important time to get the word out about the book." Another is that libraries account for almost 50 percent of GWP's sales. That observation has led Cummings to do a little present-pounding of her own. Last year, she attended the American Library Association Annual Conference.

"If I had a wish list," she says, "it would be that I had a full-time staff to deal with marketing and outreach."

Cummings started her career in New York, typesetting and designing for publishers such as Little, Brown, then moved up to Greenwich to work at Irving Perkins Associates, a now-closed book-design company. She remembers the days when Brett was also the home of the Book Press, a then-prominent printer for New York houses.

Today, perhaps, the moon is quiet, but GWP is making some noise. "It's like a renaissance," says Elder, who has known Cummings "on and off" for years. "She's so excited about the books... It's been fun working with her."

The publisher, who recently turned 40 and has authored seven published nonfiction books, just crossed off an item on her personal wish list. In April, her first poetry collection will be released by Headwind Publications of Connecticut.

"Poetry is something I've done since I was 18," Cummings says. "I feel like, Finally, you know?" Her lesson to aspiring writers: "Never give up." □

Castor Morgan is a Seven Days columnist.

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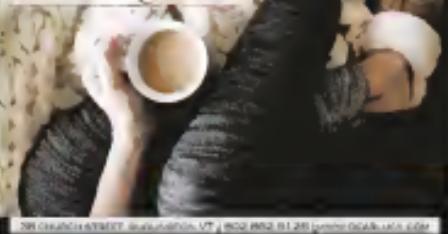
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STATEofTHEARTS



Author Jack Mayer Holds Up the Mirror of Political History

BY KRISTIN LANGRISH

If you've never heard of Ernst Werner Techow or Walther Rathenau, don't worry — and don't let it keep you from reading Middlebury author JACK MAYER's *Before the Court of Heaven*. With its skillful conjuring of complex political, social and emotional forces, this historical novel takes readers into events that unfolded in Germany in the period leading up to the Third Reich. Like Mayer's first book, *Life in a Jar: The Jesus Cradle Project* (2011), *Before the Court of Heaven*, published in 2015, has picked up numerous awards, many of them for exceptional indie (self-published) fiction.

Until 1992, the names of Techow and Rathenau didn't mean much to Mayer, either. That year, in a Yom Kippur sermon at Middlebury College, Mayer learned about Techow's role in the 1923 assassination of Rathenau, the foreign minister of Germany's fledgling Weimar Republic. Rathenau was Jewish, and Techow was an early Nazi, a young man caught up in the nationalist, anti-Semitic fury of an extreme right-wing organization. Techow's trial made headlines around the world. The newspaper accounts, scholarly works and incredible transcripts of his arrest, interrogation and trial form the foundation of Mayer's work.

What initially hooked Mayer was the story of forgiveness, which Rathenau's mother offered to Techow in an astonishing letter. What he did not know when he first delved into the background of his book — which took him 24 years to research and write — was that he would come to view these past events as a cautionary tale for the present.

These days, Mayer, who is also a pediatrician, is busy giving presentations about

Before the Court of Heaven around the state. This year, he spoke at 13 bookstores and libraries, a writers' conference, a Rotary Club and a high school. The VERMONT HUMANITIES COUNCIL sponsored some of the talks; others were institutional or initiated by Mayer himself. He's already booked for four more presentations in early 2017.

Sixty Days recently caught up with Mayer over coffee in Burlington to talk about history and what it has to teach us now.

SEVEN DAYS: The bio on the back cover of your book describes you as an author and a pediatrician. What came first?

JACK MAYER: Pediatrics first informed my writing. In elementary school I was a mediocre student, but one thing I really enjoyed, and did well, was to write stories. I started to write essays and poems about my patients during my first practice, which I opened in Koszalin, Poland, in 1996. It was an economically disastrous time, and most of my patients were on Medicaid or had no insurance; they had difficult lives, and I was inspired by the heroes of ordinary families dealing with extraordinary challenges. As a solo practice, it was very demanding work.

I wrote mostly for myself, to process my experiences and to understand my patients.

Eventually, one of my essays was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

When life in a jar landed in my lap, that's where I felt like an author for the first time.

SD: When did the title of your current book come from?

JM: It has a double meaning. Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish calendar — a day



of atonement, a day to plead before the court of heaven for forgiveness of sins against God. When I heard the story of Ernst Werner Techow in that Tom Kipper service in 1992, I was deeply moved by the element of forgiveness and the possibility of redemption, but also by the sins against our fellow humans most heinous person-to-person. What does that look like when one has world and someone — the personal statement that goes out that before the court of heaven?

SD When you refer to this event in Germany in the 1990s and '00s as a cautionary tale, what do you want your readers to pay attention to?

JM These events occurred in a constitutional democracy, with the rule of law and free elections. Ordinary people made free choices. We hear an echo of those times today in our political discourse, and we need to pay attention to that. No one of us can reverse this devastating reverberation, but each one of us can do something, no matter how small, to promote diversity, tolerance and respect for all people.

SD How do high school students respond to your presentation?

JM So far, I have only spoken to one high school class about before the Court of Heaven (and Life) in a Jel, at [Champlain Valley Union High School] in early December. They sat at right 27-tenths for one and a half hours. Many students came up to me afterwards as they left for their next class to thank me for narrating that amazing history I could tell from their feet and voices that they were not just being polite.

SD In your talkies, you often quote the Spanish philosopher and writer George Santayana, who said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Do you think history actually repeats itself?

JM History is cyclical, but we can never anticipate how circumstances will manifest — it's never identical. Some people point to the differences between Weimar Germany and the present situation, and they are correct — these are different situations. But we need

to pay attention to the underlying conditions.

The German Journalist Joachim Ellitzer recently pointed to four conditions that cleared the path for the fall of the Weimar democracy and the rise of the Third Reich: economic depression, loss of trust in institutions, social bifurcation and political blunder. I would suggest that these conditions, though not identical, exist again today. I think what Santayana asks us to do is to recognize the painful echoes of history in these conditions and that, in this way, history can be a mirror that helps us to consider the present.

SD You spent 24 years researching and writing *Before the Court of Heaven*. This is a big part of your life. JM The Holocaust is the iconic story of my life. My parents narrowly escaped the Holocaust — but it was not spoken about. The Holocaust was the elephant in our cramped apartment. I could feel the weight of sorrow all around me. It was not acknowledged, but it was everywhere — it was the atmosphere.

It was not until I was an medical school that I learned from my grandmother that my grandfather had been imprisoned at Dachau concentration camp. She was able to get him out after six months because she had gone to high school with one of the guards at the camp and was able to bribe him.

Still later, in the 1980s, my parents were interviewed for Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List* project, and, for the first time, I saw my mother's identification card with "dead" stamped on it and her non-ingress stamp from the Frankenwald Jewish Nursing School, stamped with initials. So I have come to understand my mission with regards to Holocaust history — to be a link in a long chain of storytellers who help us remember. As a pediatrician, I specialize against infectious disease, as a writer, I invoke memory as one best remuneration against the atrocities humans inflict upon each other. ☐

INFO

Before the Court of Heaven by Jack Mayer (Long Trail Press, \$30; paper, \$19.95). May is available for presentations and can be reached at jackmayerwriting@gmail.com, jackmayer.com.

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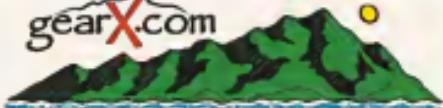
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STATE OF THE ARTS

Apparently, Software Can't Write Superior Sonnets — Yet

BY KEN PICHARD

Authors who are worried they'll soon be replaced by computer algorithms can breathe a sigh of relief — for now. But dance club enthusiasts may have more reason to feel anxious about being supplanted by digital DJs.

These are some of the takeaways from the first-ever Turing Tests in the Creative Arts, sponsored by Dartmouth College's Wyssian AI, Neuston Institute for Computational Science. In May, the institute announced the winners of its Creative Turing Tests for poetry, literature and music, all of which were generated by artificial intelligence. The call for 2017 entries is already out.

The competition is named for Alan Turing, the British mathematician and computer scientist who considered the father of AI. In 1950, Turing devised a method of assessing a computer's ability to mimic human behavior. A machine "passes" the Turing Test by performing activities that are indistinguishable from those of a human.

The Creative Turing Tests are the brainchild of **SAH ROCKMORE**, a professor of mathematics and computer science and director of the Neuston Institute. In 2008, he put out a call to computer programmers to enter their best AI software in one of three competitive categories. "Algorithmica" tested the software's ability to generate danceable music mixes and paired them against human DJs. "PoetAI" focused on the ability to produce Shakespearean or Petrarchan sonnets. And "DigLit" sought the best software for generating short stories.

What did the contest reveal about the current state of AI creativity? As Rockmore explained in an interview last week, while AI technology has advanced to the point where its musical



mixes can "fool" the human ear, whether the poetry nor the short stories were convincing enough to trick human judges.

"Creative is still really difficult" for machines to pull off, Rockmore explained. Which is not to suggest that

the algorithms aren't advancing rapidly in their flesh-and-blood counterparts. As he pointed out, it's relatively easy for software designers to construct sentence-generating machines that can build simple narratives based on specific formulas. For example, algorithms are already being used to convert baseball box scores into game summaries and raw financial data into company earnings reports.

"But if you want to make a story that people care about," Rockmore said, "or if you try to make a logic diagram of what a narrative is, you got stopped pretty quickly."

**IF YOU WANT TO
MAKE A STORY WITH
A CHARACTER THAT
PEOPLE CARE ABOUT,
YOU GET STOPPED
PRETTY QUICKLY.**

—SAH ROCKMORE



TECHNOLOGY



on a story called "Another Party in Woodside." She described the Creative Turing Test as "an important competition, in that it brought to the forefront different ways of creating generative literature and music."

"For me, a large part of the learning was considering different approaches to both the creation and the reception of generative work," Malloy added in an email.

Because of the "best predictor" that narrative presents, Rockmore aimed the focus of the 2017 Digital category. Next year, organizers will award prizes to contestants who create algorithms that best complete a short story. Given a 1,000- to 2,000-word story prompt, they will need to generate a 300- to 500-word conclusion.

The dance-track competition was another story. There, three human DJs and three algorithmic finalists, all hidden from a live audience, would up 10-minute dance mixes. Audience members cast their votes on each. A 90 percent or greater vote of "human" meant the AI passed the Turing Test.

Two algorithms ended up getting about 40 percent "human" votes, and one failed with all 10 listeners in a separate online poll. Rockmore called those "highly sophisticated technical achievements."

The clearest results of tests in the two art forms, Rockmore theorized, may have something to do with the role that computer-generated elements already play in today's pop music. Modern listeners' tastes have evolved to the point where they're more accepting of mimic created by machines.

"Look, if we'd been reading computer-generated novels for the last 10 years," Rockmore said, "then maybe the ones we got [in the BigLit contest] wouldn't have looked so weird." ☀

Carrie Livingston

INFO

Learn more about the 2017 Turing Tests in the Creative Artistic Research column at tinyurl.com/yahqgkgt.

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Dear Cecil,

Did Martin Luther, founder of the Protestant Reformation, instigate the Holocaust with his anti-Jewish writings, including his infamous *On the Jews and Their Lies*?

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Did Martin Luther instigate the Holocaust? Call me a traditionalist, but I figure that accomplishment can stay on Hitler's map sheet. What we can safely say, though, is that a) yes, the father of the Reformation did express starkly anti-Semitic sentiments in print and at great length — in the decade you name, he eloquently abetted the persecution of German Jews, saying at one point "We are at fault in not slaying them" — and b) the Nazis couldn't get enough of it. Luther handily invented anti-Semitism, but in a towering presence in German culture, he proved very useful in legitimizing the aims of the Third Reich.

Always opposed to the practice of Judaism — he couldn't understand why anyone would take a pass on the Christian promise of salvation — Luther initially adopted a hance-not-vinegar approach toward his adherents. His 1523 treatise *That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew* condemned the Catholic Church for its mistreatment of Jews — not for humanitarian reasons, mind you, but because he felt it made Jews less likely

to convert. On the basis of this position, a Jewish apologetic selected Luther's edition of the New Testament from the state of Saxe-Coburg, by the time seemingly emerged at the failure of his conversion efforts, vehemently refused to introduce.

Luther's anti-Semitism reached full boil with the 1543 publication of *On the Jews and Their Lies* — basically a doomsday tract of what nowadays would fall into speech. After roundly condemning Jews as profane, deceitful, insolent, profane, deceitful, insolent blasphemers, "possessed by all devils," Luther sets forth a program of action. He calls for the burning of synagogues, forbidding rabbis from preaching, banning Jews from owning houses, stripping them legal protection, confiscating their men and money, and setting them to manual labor. This diatribe wasn't a one-off, as Luther followed it up with further equally combative treatises and a later series of anti-Semitic sermons soon after his death in 1546. And his arguments weren't ineffective — a regimen helped stir up a Frankfort pogrom in 1546.

In his classic *The Rite and*

Fall of the Third Reich, William Shirer argues that here Luther had basically drafted the blueprint for the Holocaust, concluding that his "advice was literally followed." We have no proof the young Hitler was aware of Luther's anti-Semitic writings (the strongest staff had been omitted from some editions of Luther's collected work), or that they had a formative effect on his thinking, thus we can't draw a direct line from Luther to Hitler to the Holocaust.

However, it's broadly true that Luther contributed to the culture of antisemitism that was especially virulent in Germany (although hardly unknown elsewhere — for example in Russia, where Luther had no comparable influence). And by the 1930s at least, the Nazis were well aware of Luther's anti-Semitic work and used it to justify their actions. On the Jews and Their Lies was displayed prominently in a glass case during the Nuremberg rallies, and Nazi speakers regularly cited Luther as a kindred spirit. "No judgment could be sharper," Heinrich Himmler said of

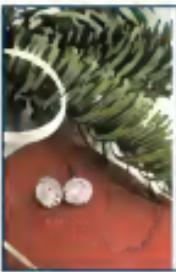
Luther's writings against the Jews; "With Luther" according to Hans Hinkel of the Reich's Propaganda Ministry, "the revolution of German blood and feeling against whom elements of the Volk was begun." Bishop Martin Niemöller, prominent in the pre-Nazi German Christian movement, published a collection of Luther's anti-Semitic writings, noting with satisfaction in its preface that "on November 10, 1933, on Luther's birthday the synagogues are burning in Germany" and calling Luther "the greatest anti-Semite of his time." Nazi newspaper publisher Julius Streicher, who had received a first edition of *On the Jews and Their Lies* from the people of Nuremberg as a birthday present, referred to that work in his own defense while on trial in the same city after the war ("Dr. Martin Luther would very probably sit in my place in the defendants' dock today, if this book had been taken into consideration by the prosecution").

Luther's defenders emphasize that his popular anger against Jews was theological, rooted in their refusal to embrace Christianity, rather than purely racial. But the relentless vigor with which he hammered away at "these base children of the devil, this brood of vipers," suggests more than a purely doctrinal bone to pick. As noted Lutheran scholar Eric Gritsch pointed out, Luther's description of how Jews' collective guilt for their supposed sins "still shone forth from their eyes and their skin" certainly implies some racial component to his animus.

In Luther's example, Shirer suggests, Hitler found a traditional justification for not just anti-Jewish policy but also for authoritarian rule; he contrasts that Luther's own "passion for political autonomy ensured a sensible and preventable political abstention" in German society. The Nazis organized Luther Day celebrations, calling Luther "the first German spiritual Father," and enlisted his teachings to support the idea that German exceptionalism and anti-Semitism were inseparable. We have no reason to think Luther would have approved of the Holocaust. But — and this is always the danger with rabble-rousers — he set his followers on the path.

INFO

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LAST CHANCE FOR 2016

WTF?

Is a Brattleboro Resident Running a Publishing Empire?

Brattleboro resident Adam Salviano is the founder and CEO of an international publishing house and a self-proclaimed best-selling novelist. Yet when Seven Days learned recently that he was running for the Vermont House of Representatives, our first response was, What?

Admittedly, we don't know every wordmith pounding a keyboard in the Green Mountain State. But ignorance of an author who claims on his website that his 2007 novel *The Trials of Ruth* was considered for the Man Booker Prize and a Pulitzer Prize seemed a gross oversight. WTF?

The thing is, I couldn't find any independent review of *Trials* online, which seemed highly unusual for a Man Booker and Pulitzer contender. So I reached Salviano by phone last week to ask if he had one available to reference in our annual Winter Reading List.

"I would really have to look into it," he said. "You're talking about 10 years ago that those reviews would have come out."

Salviano talked a good game. The 32-year-old Soffern, NY, native and nationally ranked competitive diver explained that his book was self-published via Rider Publishing International. He funded that firm in 2005 in response to writer disenchantment with the mainstream publishing world.

RPI, which had mostly claimed a boudoiriness in the Empire State Building, promises on its website that its "team of professionals" will publish and aggressively promote authors' books through press releases, radio and television ads, and even the company's own literary magazine. All are "guaranteed to reach at least half a million potential buyers."

According to Salviano, in its 12 years in business, RPI has sold more than 1.2 million copies of self-published books in 117 different countries and has been a "great success." But perhaps not that great, as Salviano filed for bankruptcy in May 2014, the same year he and his wife relocated from New York to Brattleboro.

I found just one review of Salviano's own book online, written by a customer on the Amazon UK website. As Marilyn Tomlin, a Paris, France-based author, wrote in 2013 about *The Trials of Ruth*: "This book is badly written and numbers. I highly recommend that



you do not buy it. You will have a much more enjoyable few moments reading a barnburner!"

Tomlin's beef with Salviano may have something to do with her own experience with RPI. In 2014, she was one of three authors interviewed on BBC Radio 4's consumer-protection show "*You & Yours*." All three accused RPI, and Salviano, of scamming them out of thousands of dollars, performing substandard editing and promotion of their books, and paying them little or nothing in royalties.

In Tomlin's telling to the BBC, once she'd paid her fees to Rider — RPI's self-publishing offerings range from the Simple Package (\$199) to the Advanced Package (\$4,499) — she never received a dime in royalties or gas recompenses to any of her queries, despite repeated efforts.

"I know exactly who she is," Salviano told Seven Days, when asked about Tomlin and the other authors' allegations. He called her one of "maybe six" disgruntled writers who've been using the internet to try to "bring down" his company.

"Every self-publisher eventually becomes a victim of its own success," he said. "You have authors who don't share in that success and lash out at the publisher. That's just the way it goes." In his 12 years of publishing, Salviano claimed, he's been sued only four times — and never lost a case.

However, a Google search for Salviano and RPI turns up more than a handful of complaints. Bookcritic, an online consumer watchdog site, reports 57 complaints against RPI since November 2013, citing "unresolved reported damages" totaling more than \$2.2 million.

Similarly, the Better Business Bureau of New York gave RPI an F rating, citing 15 consumer complaints against it, the latest Ripoff Report lists another 45 against the publisher since July 2011. Many call out Salviano by name.

RPI and Salviano appear to have burned enough bridges with aspiring authors to have spawned a Facebook page — dubbed *Do Not Publish With Rider Publishing International*, where its photo features prominently — and earned scathing critiques from writers who view themselves as industry watchdogs.

Audrey Victoria Strauss, who publishes the blog *Writer Beware*, singled out two of Salviano's ventures — RPI and Perimedes Publishing — for among other alleged offenses, misleading advertising, excessive fees, poor or inadequate editing, and reported branches of contracted obligations.

Publishing consultant Mick Rooney, who pens the *Independent Publishing Magazine*, seems to have made it his personal mission to chronicle Salviano's alleged shenanigans dating back to 2006. His site includes a "detailed forensic

examination of RPI's fake video testimonials posted by mostly fictional authors (and one fictitious shelf member!).

Salviano shrugged off those websites, calling them "fake sites" that target the entire self-publishing industry.

"This is extremely common with publishers, especially with smaller publishers," he explained. Why? "I think it's because of the nature of writers, and I am a writer. Writers like name recognition and their own experiences."

So what's next for Salviano? Clearing that he's "flattered" by the publishing world, he's trying to sell RPI for an undisclosed sum, as he put it. "I'm kind of putting that part of my life away."

As far as state rep int'l., Salviano was soundly defeated last month by incumbent Rep. Miller Burke (D-Danville), garnering just 18 percent of the voter cast. Currently, he chairs the Brattleboro Town Arts Committee and serves on the board of directors of Brattleboro's community radio station, WVRM-FM 103.9, where he also hosts a weekly program, "*The Brattledoor Men*."

Salviano's next literary project, he noted, is an as-yet-unpublished novel due out next summer.

Contact him at jarvendevore.com

INFO

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Mapping Happiness

UVM researchers take the measure of human emotion

BY RACHEL ELIZABETH JONES

At the University of Vermont, researchers in the Computational Story Lab can, within seconds, graph the emotional arc of any story — and provide its happiness ranking, to boot. How? With a complex and extremely precise computer program developed by PhD candidate Andy Reagan and advisor Chris Danforth and Peter Dodds. The last two are co-directors of the lab and professors in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.

Why study stories from a mathematical perspective? Perhaps the most succinct answer comes from a blog post Reagan wrote on the lab's website last month:

Stories help us encode and understand our collective existence, underpin culture, and help frame the possible. Describing the ecology of all human stories is an unusual academic enterprise.

One of the most prominent findings of the group's research is that the

emotional arc of most human narratives — defined as the trajectory of overall positive and negative feelings — fits one of six distinct shapes.

While such numerical analysis of stories may seem better suited to mathematicians than to creative types, Reagan pointed out that novelist Kurt Vonnegut actually pioneered the idea. His blog post includes a delightfully irreverent 1985 video of the author illustrating basic story shapes. In it, Vonnegut declares facetiously, "Computers can now play chess, so I don't know why they can't digest this very difficult curve I'm going to draw now."

More than 30 years later, it seems, computers and their users are getting up to speed.

Now does this UVM crew map the happiness of a story, or parts of a story, into numerical values? By analyzing it at the word level. To begin, they decided to create an emotional ranking system for a large quantity of words. They struggled for a system of the most frequently used words, in 30 different languages, to be

rated by 80 people on a happiness scale of 1 to 9.

Why not a more conventional 1-to-10 scale? For calculation purposes, Danforth said, there had to be a neutral middle value. The words with the highest ranking, Reagan noted, are "love," "laughter" and "happiness."

**THIS IS THE VERY BEGINNING OF A NEW FIELD:
COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE.**

CHRIS DANFORTH

To plot out what Reagan called a story's "emotional signature," the researchers calculate the happiness average of a story signature using the rankings and occurrence of particular words. For statistical stability, signatures are approximately 10,000 words long. So the happiness average of pages

1 through 20 of a novel is plotted beside the average for pages 2 through 21, and so on — overlapping to provide the richest analysis possible. As Danforth put it, "the intention is about trying to rigorously quantify differences in word usage."

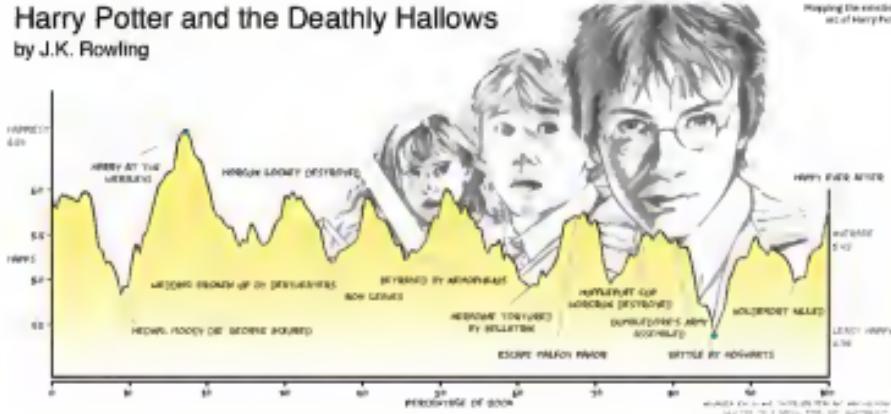
Once the researchers had this system in place, they began using it on books — a lot of them. They sourced more than 1,700 works of fiction from the Project Gutenberg website and charted their emotional trajectories. Each story fit roughly into one of six basic categories mapped to numbers (romantic love, tragedy (sadly full), man vs. man (full rise), drama (rise fall), Comedies (rise fall rise) and Oedipus (full rise fall)).

In "Romeo and Juliet," Tragedy, dash Alice's Adventures in Wonderland? Says no nob.

"We're trying to understand, at a deep scientific level, what the creative process produces," Danforth said. He readily admitted that the research has received some pushback. "There's a resistance among communities of people who've had a bad experience with math,

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J.K. Rowling

Mapping the emotional arc of Harry Potter





or are less inclined to think scientifically about them," he said, and added, "That is a fair reason to have."

In general, though, the team has been keeping the fruits of its labor. Most recently Beagan and company shared their work at the UVM Computer Science Fair — and received the award for top research project. Their research has also received attention from the New York Times, the MIT Technology Review and many other outlets, and will be featured in the February issue of *Scientific American*.

Landing mathematical validity is Vonnegut's thesis; this is not the only application for the work of the Computational Story Lab. With the help of social media, it can be used to gauge society's mood at a particular historical moment.

Before the UVM team started working on story arcs, they formulated the Holometer — a website that measures the average happiness of Twitter as a single entity. In 2016, key points were Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Thanksgiving. Low points included the Brussels terrorist attacks, the death of pop star Prince, the shootings of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and five Dallas police officers, the election of Donald Trump as US president; and — the lowest point of all — the Pulse night club shooting in Orlando.

Other Story Lab initiatives in progress involve predicting mental health using a person's Instagram feed, and

studying correlations between the mental health output and physical health of a given demographic using something called the Lexiconometer.

"This is the very beginning of a new field, computational social science," Donforth said.

How the field might intersect with the structure of corporate and governmental surveillance is another story.

In the era of social media and big data, the line between a quantitative and qualitative analysis of human behavior has become thinner. "We don't just have to think up theories," Donforth said, "[because] there's so much data being produced by one behavior — now we can actually let the data speak for itself." And one thing is certain: We can no longer perpetuate the myth that math majors don't care about emotions.

To give *SnowDays* readers a "baseline" demonstration of how their program works, Beagan and company generously agreed to crunch some raw and members from the pair's stories. Want to know how, say, the ontology of Paul Heintz's 2016 political courage compares with all of Hansel-Polmer Igor's food writing in terms of a happiness quotient? We'll have a full rundown up on our website soon. ☺

Contact: rachel@arvardigovt.com

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Under Sharp White Stars

A short story BY LEATH TONINO



INFO

Leath Tonino is a freelance writer from and raised in the Champlain Valley. His work appears in magazines including Outside, Orion and the Sun.

They were standing in the driveway beneath the dry black sky and the sharp white stars. The snow was deep and clean and everywhere. It had been cold for a week. Ten below; 15 below, 20 below during the days. Zach was sitting to himself looking at the stars. Looking and thinking. Talking about whatever this minute Lucy was close, pricing, and the next she was gone, disappeared into the bushes.

Lucy all over her body. Dying of course. She was an old dog, a friend from childhood. At the vet's office that morning they had skinned rectangular patches to her coat, right down to the skin. Gave her shots.

Zach, Zach thought. Guilt rising inside him, fear rising beside it, a third thing he did not have a name for rushing to overtake the two. He thought of those rectangular patches. Scrabbled up the snowbank and into the woods. Called her name again and again. Lucy. Lucy. Lucy.

Lucy worked in the windows of neighboring houses. Everything was perfectly, horribly still. Zach was wearing jeans and a parka and gloves, scrabbling and swearing. Scrabbling. Sniffing bones across his face. The track became confused, Lucy's prints crossing others. Then the river. The river. At the river it became clear. There was no river.

There was a moment like all moments. Nonetheless, infinite, only more so. Zach dropped to his knees. His voice would not come out to say her name, his voice was not his voice, not his to command.

And like that, just like that, something was at his back. Some present. Some whisper. He stood and turned and saw a red fox that in the strange light of winter looked blue. The blue for sure forward. The blue for sure. Zach stood off his glove. Lowered a bare hand. For an instant there was nothing. Nothing but the warmth of the ranges.



You know, Zach thought, I know you know. This is your way of telling me that you know. Please. Please lead me to her.

Weaving between the pale trunks of birches. Passing. Staring apart. He followed, keeping his distance, holding a space between their bodies. The fox would pause, swing its head to tail. To make sure he still coming. Zach thought.

Like that Oh and on. Time went brittle, broke so porous. Now they were far from the river. Far from the neighbors. Far from anything. It was a different world, impossibly distant. It was burning long, negative 30, a clearing, a tall snag with twisted branches.

Here. Hall to be
AAAAAAZE.

**ANIMALS ARE AT HOME
BUT HERE, IN THIS,
IN THEMSELVES.**

But the fox only circled the snag and gave a look. A look that said a word. That was a knot. That dropped 20-sh in his demon lenses. The needless freezing, companion of fear and grief, rose like sickness. It was right out of him and sprayed across the white.

Red of course. Tight cord. The fox snagged itself down to sleep.

This is what they do, Zach thought, weeping his chin. Teeth chattering. Tears glistening his cheeks. Animals are at home out here, in this, in themselves. They are at home in their bodies and even in their deaths. He called a final time. Closed his eyes. Saw those bare shorn rectangles on her sole and belly. Saw her somewhere he could not see.

Overhead the stars cut the sky as they always have and always will. Zach felt them against her skin, his skin. And then he stood and took a new trial home. @

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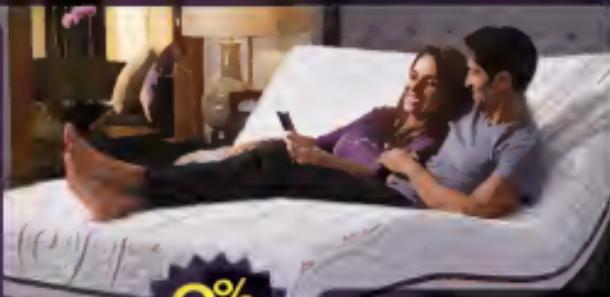
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December 10th

A poem by CHARD DENIERD

I saw the first cardinal this morning in the snow
outside my window at the feeder and was tempted
to call him my heart for his color, shape
and hunger; but no, not yet, rather, little red bandit
at home in the north where the sky conspires
with the cold to form a blue so deep you can see
straight through, where somehow the voles dig deep
enough to survive the frost and the fox grows thin.
but lives on bones till March, where the deer eat comes
and bears dig out themselves in the dark, where all
things live. In fact, with the fear that they might die
from the terrible cold and lack, although
they have no word for it, only the songs they sing
we call the music of life. I watched the cardinal
devour seeds by the dozen and then fly off, no less
determined, to grow hungry again in a matter of minutes
to return on the feeder for a couple of seconds
as a ghost of the bird that shames the winter. ☺



INFO

Chard deNiord is Pennsylvani's poet laureate and lives in Westmoreland, West. "December 10th" is from *Night Mowing*, published by the University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005.

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Gatekeeper of Words

The managing editor of Green Mountains Review on submissions and more

BY JULIA SKRIPLEY

Jessica Hendry Nelson of Woodbury wears a lot of hats. She's the author of the memoir *If Only You People Could Follow Directions*, which was a finalist for the 2005 Vermont Book Award. She teaches at Champlain College, in the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA program in writing and publishing, and in the low-residency MFA programs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She cofounded the now-defunct Renegade Writers' Collective, which was a Burlington hub for classes, readings and contests.

For the past four years, Nelson has served as managing editor of the nearly 20-year-old literary journal *Green Mountains Review*, based at Johnson State College. There she coordinates the publication of each annual issue full of contemporary fiction, nonfiction and poetry. She's also busy curating new territory for GMR's book publication. The prose and poetry winners of GMR's first annual Book Prize competition will be published early next year.

Vermont has plenty of writers, many of whom have submitted their work to literary journals, but how many know what goes on behind the scenes? How do people like Nelson tackle the task, half rate and half delight, of assembling an award-winning print journal supplement by August online content?

For one thing, the internet has changed their job considerably — and not just because editors have a bigger content hole to fill. In the early days of GMR, submissions arrived via post. This writer, who was a student reader during that era, remembers having cartons of poems and short stories, all accompanied by self-addressed stamped envelopes, filling an office the size of a glamorously cluttered closet. Since then, an online submission system called Submittable has freed writers from using the US postal service to send out their work. But the simplified process means that it's easy for GMR to receive thousands more submissions per year.

Seven days reached out to Nelson to both slope and phone to learn how she fills each twice-a-year issue from the flood of potential material she receives.



JESSICA HENDRY NELSON

IT'S HUMBLING AND INSPIRING
— THERE ARE SO MANY
TALENTED WRITERS.

JESSICA HENDRY NELSON

SEVEN DAYS: *Green Mountains Review* has been around for more than 25 years. What was the magazine like when it began, and what is it like now?

JESSICA HENDRY NELSON: GMR was started in 1987 by two JBC English department faculty: poet Neil Shepard [now a similar editor] and poet and essayist Tony Whelen. They

established the journal as a biannual print journal publishing poetry and fiction and a little bit of nonfiction. Historically, it's always been staffed by faculty with the help of student interns.

I started working with the magazine four years ago, taking over for the longtime managing editor Jeanne Engle and also becoming the creative nonfiction editor. In 2004 [poet and associate professor] Rhonda Powell took over as editor in chief. [Powell is currently on sabbatical, and Nelson is filling that role until her return.]

More recently, the journal has become an annual print journal, and we've revamped the website to include nonfiction now, too. We're still staffed by faculty with the help of student interns, but the biggest evolution is that



the journal is a reflection of an editor's particular aesthetic taste and evolves as editors evolve and change.

New Jersey Beach is fiction editor; Elizabeth Powell is the poetry editor [replaced by poet Didi Jackson during her sabbatical], and we've modernized the [print journals] design, which is now square-shaped. Also, we've expanded the digital format, which allows for greater possibilities of what we can publish, for example, there's no word limit and no art-style limit. Next, we're looking at incorporating audio and video content.

50: What does an emerging editor do?
JHN: The managing editor is the central tower. Editors read the submissions and give them thumbs-up or thumbs-down; they recommend certain pieces. I [would] read everything to make sure nothing flies under the radar. I keep track of all the calls that come in, keep track of the editing schedule. I tell the editors when it's time to turn in their materials, then I send our contracts to the authors.

In the initial issue layout and sequence the work, figure out what goes where. For example, each print issue has a special insert — our current issue [had] a slate of work by [past laureate of the United States], Jane Figueiro-Berrens — so I use that as the starting point for determining the shape of the magazine. Also, I determine the price runs and fill the orders. I communicate with the layout designer — it's like collaborating all the day and making the pot.

51: How many submissions does GMH receive?

JHN: In 2015 we received 4,710 submissions, not including the 180 full-length manuscript submissions for the Book Prize. So we have an acceptance rate of 3.25 percent.

52: Does being on the receiving end of submissions give you any insights when it comes to submitting your own writing?

JHN: When I first started [editing fiction] for GMH, I was overwhelmed and awed by the number of quality submissions. It's humbling

and inspiring — there are so many talented writers. And to some extent the submission process is [like] laying your wrists bare. You're waiting for a ruling to come down.

So, a rejection isn't necessarily a reflection of quality, it might be about [the editor's] needs for a particular issue, the mood of the editor on a given day. It's an intuitive and subjective process. Because of my job, I know how many refined versions are out there working and producing, so I'm less anxious about rejections. On the other hand, I'm more anxious about the whole project of writing — because it's so difficult for even extremely talented writers to get published. But that there are so many engaged and eloquent writers! That's exciting.

53: So, now GMH is publishing books? What a great leap!
Hawt:

JHN: We were inspired by indie presses that are sustaining innovative writing in a time of mass-market commercial publications. We realized we already have a platform [the magazine] to promote daring and bold experimental hybrid work. We saw an opportunity to promote those writers even more.

We already had the infrastructure: the staff and the connections to reach out to guest editors, plus our amazing design/layout editor who runs [a press called] Publishing Genius. We thought, *Why can't we promote strange art that might otherwise go unnoticed?* Author Sarah Mangano chose the winner of the prize contest. When We Spring From His Bed, Shaggybird Backward, And Jeff Dead: We Clamp Together With Four Arms, And Instantly Quarreled Each Other by Christopher Kang. Poet Olafur Kalyrikus Davis selected the winner of the poetry contest, Mega-City Rules by Alpine Knorr. The books are available for pre-order now, and we're having the launch party on February 7 in Washington, D.C., at the AADL [during the Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference].

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Saturday Morning Babka

A short story by MARY HAYS



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MARY HAYS

How about you give me some of that whatchamacallit of yours, Ron says to Dora, pouring himself coffee from the scorched stoneware pot. He sets it back on the tile, and the baby mouths her and her again, but no one looks.

It's a babka, New York food, she says at the resulting across-the-table,

the lunching, the empty eyes of last night. But that 7-year-old Kenny will recycle into Ron's Peanut Butter Cape at Bimbo's store, and sets the babka on a plate, a high-crowned cupcake that's been punched in the side, growled underneath. The children have been at it, lastish as meal on Saturday mornings, the whole place falls to pieces, collapses, like the cake.

Knows he's late. Kenny slips out of bed before it's light, plays one of his race-car games without the sound, Saturdays he goes to his friend Bimbo's house, they're making a secret fort under the porch that no one knows about.

Jenny is eating standing up, wearing Samie's quilted robe. Her cuffs are stained in milk. A basket for breakfast? she says, loud enough for her sister to

hear. She's already stolen half for her. Sarah is still in bed, reading one of her historical books, the one with a wicked queen on the cover. Later, she has promised, they will eat it raw.

They brought this all the way up from New York? says Ron. No wonder it's dry.

He's the only one dressed, the only one wearing real clothes. If the master caught fire right now, he'd be the only one equipped to act. Doris tears a piece off for Phyllis, the baby, who stares at it, then flips it off her tiny Kenny hands it to her, but she makes a face, refusing it. She's holding out for the Chester in the crinkly bag on top of the fridge.

I'll share one of Hobart if I save it, says Kenny Jenny, his twin, opening her mouth and silently shows him the food in her teeth.

It's Jewish? Ron asks and Doris shrugs. You get it at the store?

Doris gives him a look. Where do you think? I didn't find it in the woods.

What's Jewish? Kenny asks.

Never you mind, says Ron. Doris is wearing her mother-in-law's scruff, they were left at the bottom of the bag they used robbing the old lady's savings to the bone. She was a danger to them all. She left the bums on while she dozed off and Phyllis watched TV. Now Phyllis is afraid of monsters, sleeping alone. They leave the lights on, but it doesn't help. They come out in the night, demands that Jenny sing to her, but Jenny won't get up.

98

Some of the women Doris cleans for during the week don't like it that she has to bring Phyllis with her now. She tells them she's making arrangements (but hopes they'll get used to it). On Saturdays when she cleans the school, she leaves the baby home. She likes it spookily-empty, quiet. The janitor does the floors on Fridays after school is out, sweeps and dry-mops, wastes during vacations, she went to school there back when the floors were wood and there was no gym. Everything's changed, even the



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Monday, December 26, 7 pm



small. Sometimes she gets a whiff in the cafeteria where they still have the wooden benches, but it's faint.

She starts at noon, bearing down on the teacher's desk with an arsenal of rags and庚tlers. She wags around the papers they leave on top. She won't touch nothing, she's told them, won't be responsible; it's up to them. When she goes in the room's classroom, she looks in their desks: a mess, some as at home. Sarah's classroom is down the hall. She leaves little toys on top of her desk, lined up just so. Her teacher is a man, Mr. Fribble. He jokes a lot, and Sarah likes him.

THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN AT IT, LAWLESS AS USUAL, ON SATURDAY MORNINGS, THE WHOLE PLACE FAILS TO PIECES, COLLAPSES, LIKE THE CAKE.

One time he had them draw pictures of their families and put them up on the wall. Sarah was up there, nice and neat and colored in. Underneath she wrote *MARY MINTON PORTRAIT*, letters all the same size. There was Ron in red pants, then a needle, then a bright yellow dress, Jenny and Kenny (both in brown pants), Sarah in a blue dress with buttons down the front holding hands with Phyllis on pink, tall colored, and a brown dog standing sideways. You could tell all who was wagging his tail because she'd drawn little bows like sunrays all around the end of it. They didn't have a dog.

Dantic Miss was taking the whiteboards, blots to see the sense of color among off. They erase all work but the color stays. Nobody's got chalkboards anymore. They use markers, use them up and nose them. She reverberates the chalk, how it dried your hands, turned them white. On Fridays last period, Miss Gotwander let the girls draw on the board if their work was done.

Once, when Dorts stayed in for recess to finish her spelling sentences, Miss Gotwander read a whole poem out loud to her desk and she just started reading out loud as if the whole class was there. Dorts didn't know if she was supposed to listen or she kept her head down. It was a poem about people trudging through the woods in the soft snow. It was very quiet as the woods, like it was in the moon, and not even the little animals heard them. When she finished, Miss Gotwander said, "It's called 'Winter Shoot.' Did you like it?"

No one had ever asked Sarah for her opinion about a poem, or about anything else. She nodded, still looking down at her paper, afraid Miss Gotwander might ask her to tell her why, but she didn't. The bell rang and the kids came back in and no one knew what had happened while they were gone.

*

Workdays Ron delivers fuel for Green Mountain Oil. Saturdays he goes to the Home and Burns to his mother complain. He drives slowly, keeping for an accident. She'll be pacing the lobby; her navy blue map attached to her wrist. They all gather in the lobby to wait for lunch. Once he went right after breakfast and they were already in their chairs, waiting, the oil on her face one looking. Only his mother paces around, agitated. It's a wonder they don't leave her and bring her down.

"I'll tell her about the cake," Good thing you won't show, he'll say. "It was so hard we had to eat a basket for breakfast, whatever and all."

Sometimes he can get a smile out of her, but mostly not. She's turned mean. She flicks her finger at the newspaper of the man who does the crossword. Wake up, she barks, the world is burning! The issue looks surprised every time. Ron has noticed the date on his upper lip. The sprouts are fully entrenched now, the skin won't stretch. Ron would like to tell him someone could help out with that, maybe the barber who comes to cut the women's hair. The barber doesn't

waste any effort on the ladies. He shaves their necks all the same way, leaning as much below the horizon.

Ron remembers his mother's hair when it was still long, a waterfall of dark brown hair. She'd swing it around, pretending not to know how pretty it was. You wouldn't suspect it of her now, seeing her so maternal. Only the blue glove gives her away. When she goes into the dining room, the purse goes right along. It swings and bobs above her creamed corn as she cuts. Sometimes it's mashed. Ron tries to make his arrival as he can leave before he has to wash.

*

With everybody gone, Sarah and Jenny play Queen. Jenny's her slave. The thrill of it makes Jenny's teeth feel like they're dissolving. She has to do everything Sarah says, even when their mother leaves. Sarah dresses Phyllis. In screens, paints her red pink, sits on a pillow, sings, rolls wild, runs outside in her slip. She's supposed to clean up, but she makes Jenny do it. Sarah calls her a kitchen wench and slaps her but not hard enough to leave a mark. No one's supposed to know about these games. Jenny wiggles the table and scrubs up the crumbs, pretends she has a long dress, long hair, pretends she has the straw bed she must sleep in in the castle basement, the rats that run around squeaking in the dark.

Kenny sleeps down there, too, on a cot so short his feet stick out at the end. He has a histamine disease and is waiting anyway to bring him water in soap, but he can hardly swallow. When he does, it'll be all alone. The stable boy has promised her that after Kenny can be well help her escape from the wicked queen. He looks like English, the new boy in her class. She'll steal a blanket from the cold kitchen and sit abandoned in the saddle packing all the needles out, her long brown wavy hair of her averaging gently from side to side as they ride away. ☀

INFO

Mary Higgins Clark is Dorothy. She is the author of the novel *Introducing Mr. Dove*.

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Words to Eat By

Cozying up to Chelsea Green Publishing's 2016 catalog

BY HANNAH PALMER EGAN

Chelsea Green Publishing founders Marge and Ian Baldwin weren't committed to any particular editorial bias when they printed their first books in 1981. "At first, we did a bit of everything," Marge Baldwin recalled, sitting at a book-strewn table in her White River Junction office earlier this month. "We did novels, art books, nonfiction."

Within a few years, the company — then based at the Baldwins' home on the south green in Chelsea — needed to specialize. Early successors,

such as Jane Green's current reissue edition of *The Man Who Planted Trees* (1985), and Eliot Coleman's how-to guide to material parenting, *The New Organic Grower* (1989), hinted that the couple's personal convictions about environmental stewardship and sustainability could translate into a viable book business. A focus was born.

Thirty years later, Chelsea Green's backlist includes four *New York Times* best sellers. Among these, Sandor Katz's *The Art of Fermentation*, An In-Depth Exploration of Essential Concepts

and Processes from Around the World won a James Beard Foundation Book Award in 2012; Naomi Wolf's *The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot* (2007), which outlines a 10-step mission from democratic to authoritarian rule, seems even more urgent now than it did upon publication toward the end of George W. Bush's presidency.

An artisan cookbook has become an American obsession (think, *Food Network*), many mega-publishers have jumped on the farm-to-table bandwagon. But while other houses

"often don't do it very well," Baldwin said, Chelsea Green's decades-long engagement with slow-food culture means the company can endow its books with unusual depth and nuance.

Chelsea Green's collective catalog — which has remained on the leading edge of the cultural wave — arguably reflects an evolving, eco-friendly trend over time. So, what do the publisher's 2016 releases reveal about where we're headed, in terms of food and agriculture?

Let's take a look at a few of them.

The New Wildcrafted Cuisine: Exploring the Exotic Gastroonomy of Local Terroir

By Michael Abels, 256 pages, \$29.95

Have you ever wandered a wooded path after a rainstorm, inhaling deeply to absorb as much of the rich, complex flavor auras as possible? Maybe you've salivated at the scent of a fragrant herb at the edge of a summer meadow, or revisited a wild berry between your fingers to better understand its bitterness, musky flavor.

For cooks interested in translating these sensory experiences into the dish, that cookbook offers specific, step-by-step instructions on everything from roasting crunchy candied tree leaves to exposing wild yeasts for sourdough to flavoring a batch of salsa with wild herbs or fruits.

With chapters on "cooking with dirt," "mush," "herbs, sap and stones" (wrap aubergine in bark or grasses before cooking to impart plant-based aromatics) and "coating wild-harvest sausages" (this beautiful, exciting book is best suited to readers with a strong culinary vocabulary and decent familiarity with wild edibles).



Street Farm: Growing Food, Jobs, and Hope on the Urban Frontier

By Michael Abels, 256 pages, \$29.95

Food-justice advocates spend untold hours devising plans to bring more fresh, whole foods to the ghettoized urban poor. While some of these ask to improve traditional food programs, most involve community gardens or other forms of urban agriculture.

In Vancouver, B.C., Soek Food Street Farm cofounder Michael Abels and his farmers grow more than 25 tons of food per year on five acres spread over four locations near the city center. Most of the farmers have limited means and are recovering from addiction or other severe health issues. There is now the largest urban farm project in North America. Street Farm offers a detailed, if unpolished, guide for readers hoping to establish similar projects in their own cities. But it is also a friendly story about formerly isolated individuals building nourishment and independence through learning, observation, awareness, personal growth and community.



side dishes

BY JULIA CLANCY HANNAH PALMER RYAN & SUZANNE PEDDHAZER



Bethany Fries

Ring in the New Beer

MATCH 8 IN PELVERIA'S 10 OPEN IN SPRING 2012

A lot of Vermont breweries opened in 2011, and next year should be no different. One of the newest additions to the state's proliferating brew scene is **PELVERIA**, a one-barrel microbrewery in Winooski that owner Mike Koenig aims to open this spring.

Koerber moved from Michigan to Winooski in 1999 because, in his words, "It was quiet; I found a great place of land with a tiny shack on it and fell in love with it." Since then, he has founded a business that builds websites and develops database applications, but brewing beer remains his creative passion. Come spring 2012, Koerber will turn his now-shore hobby into a business, setting up shop in the bottom floor of the barn on his property.

"I make my own soap, start soap from scratch and refine them from there," says Koerber. "I'm a lager and high-ale kind of guy, and I love IPAs. I have about 12 recipes established now."

Paperwork pending, Koerber's namesake brewery will start running out logs and bottles in the snow.

begins to melt. He'll distribute on a hyper-local scale to restaurants and retail stores via the www.leviwoof.com.

A friend of fellow Winooski resident Sean Lawlor of **LAWSON'S FROST LINGERIE** — whose brewery's website is still under design — Koerber notes the possibility that his and Lawlor's could ride a similar upward trajectory. "[Lawson] started with a one-barrel system, too," he says. "Now, 10 years later..."

We'll see what comes next.

—J.E.

Mad Successful

MAD TALES CATERERS TO SPURGE OF BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL OPEN COMMERCIAL

The Winooski location of the **MAD TALES** event caterers are so busy with a group of friends, drinking beer and snacking down smoked-pork-belly tacos and guacamole, by contrast, the Montpelier location, which used to be a Subsusa, has always retained a bit of a quick-service vibe — it doesn't encourage lingering.

In early January owners **JENNA AND JEFF HANFORD** — the latter also a partner in **THREE PENNY TAVERN** — will give the place a facelift. They'll add communal tables,

a bar with seating and more taps, a full liquor license and a bartender. Margaritas anybody?

The changes are part of a large shift in the duo's company. Their other business, **GATE HIGH CATERING** — which specializes in wood-fired oysters — is experiencing massive growth. To keep up, Nagy and Hanford are opening a community kitchen in Winooski, which will supply both Mad Tales and the catering bar.

gather eggs, and grow herbs, greens, tomatoes and other vegetables. Over the next few years, Nagy says, they'll ramp up farm production, growing more of the food they use. In that end, they already have a root cellar for storage and will construct 10 greenhouses starting in spring.

"It's full vertical integration," says Nagy as he prepares to butcher 12 goats that just returned from the slaughterhouse. One aim is to ensure a plentiful supply of



Greater self-sufficiency is also part of the plan. Many of the ingredients processed in the community will come from Nagy's 297-acre farm in Thetford, which she owns with **MICHAEL AND SEBASTIAN RONTRAPP**. There they raise goats, norways and chickens,

ingredients that meet her and Hanford's quality standards. "I use 100 branches of cilantro a week right now; it's zero-degrees at night. There aren't many people our there who will be able to

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Words to Eat By

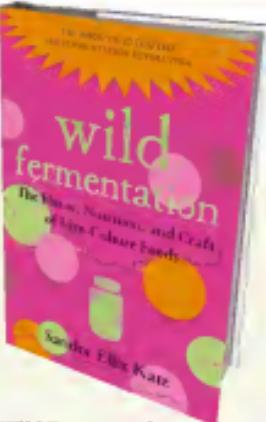
Black Trumpet: A Chef's Journey Through Eight New England Seasons

Even Mallett, 400 pages \$40

While many cold-climate residents think of a year as having four seasons, Vermonter Even Mallett sees eight, adding "heat season" and "stick season" to the usual winter-spring-summer-fall cycle. In Portsmouth, NH, Black Trumpet restaurant chef Even Mallett divides his year into eight.

By splitting each of the year's quarters into "early" and "late" micro-seasons, this cookbook reminds us that, while a salad of warm spinach, citrus, goat cheese and pickled ramps opens a late-December dinner, those greens are long gone by February. By then, buttery ricotta cheese puffs become a mean blustery pea-supper.

Even if you don't often cook from scratch, flipping through the recipes might just inspire you to grab a tote bag and head to the farmers market. Luckily for Vermonters, Portsmouth's climate exactly parallels ours.



Wild Fermentation: The Flavor, Nutrition, and Craft of Live-Culture Foods (second edition)

Sandor Ellix Katz, 328 pages \$29.95

While living at a Tennessee commune, Sandor Katz met Chelsea Green—a pariah of materials on fermented foods born in the early 2000s. The sample was handwritten, Katz was unknown outside his local community and few Americans were interested in fermentation. But Chelsea Green saw something in the proposal and decided to go for it.

"We didn't know how well it would do," Baldwin recalled. "People thought we were crazy to do a book on fermentation."

The book would launch Katz's career. Now, Baldwin said, "that's the germ of [the fermentation] movement." In his book, the author reexamines human relationship with nutrient-enhancing

microbes as a world tradition and a key health-giving medicine that's played a key role in his own struggle to live a full and zestful life with HIV.

Then there are the aspects. Katz's instructions provide precise, easy-to-follow road maps for readers embarking on their first attempt at kimchi or koumiss. After the basics, Katz offers strange and obscure recipes such as ginseng—a dry, leaf-only pickle from the Iberian peninsula. He encourages his readers to explore new techniques and ingredients by developing their own new and unique ferments.

Restoring Heritage Grains: The Culture, Biodiversity, Resilience, and Cuisine of Ancient Wheats

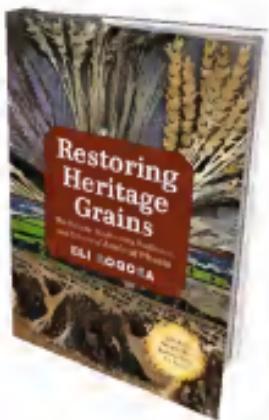
Eli Rogosa 272 pages, \$24.95

In 2004, Chelsea Green published *The New Seed Sotk*, in which Amy Ippolito made a case for reviving the grain production that characterized open valleys throughout the Northeast in the 18th century. Throughout the past two decades, enthusiasts have nurtured a love affair with heirloom vegetables, but, until very recently, older grain varieties have been largely taken for granted.

In western Massachusetts, Heritage Grain Conservancy founder and baker Eli Rogosa cultivates hundreds of ancient wheat crops, many of which she first encountered while working in the Fertile Crescent. Using seed collected from around the world, she is working to preserve biodiversity in the age of industrial wheat monocultures, which count only with the aid of powerful fertilizers and pesticides.

Restoring Heritage Grains provides a field guide to ancient wheat varieties while weaving a multifaceted narrative of the grains' origins, development and role in humanity. It also offers practical instructions on growing, harvesting and storing grain crops, along with recipes for pastas, breads and sweets. ☐

Contact: hannah@arveneguest.com



INFO

Learn more at chelseagreen.com

|| Here food after the classifieds section, page 47

Our holiday wish is to find Lexi the home we've been promising her...



Lexi

AGE/SEX: 8 year old spayed female

ARRIVAL DATE: October 1, 2016

REASON HERE: Her owner moved to housing that doesn't allow pets.

Staff favorite Lexi has become a fixture at HSCEE and while we love her dearly, she's not a good fit. In and out of our care since 2011, Lexi can't seem to catch a break... though no fault of her own. Lexi has lost homes > five homes and finds herself homeless yet again for the holidays.

Lexi is a lover of many things, studies anxiety (she carries them), peanut butter (she's an expert at licking them clean), walks (she's slow moving with great leash manners) and princess beds (she's a great sleeper and even respects weekend schedules).

Lexi doesn't acknowledge of her new family—except to barge off of the stove (of course)—and she hopes her love is enough to fill the whole house (she promises it will). Most Lexi will do best as the only animal in her new home, and that's just the way she

likes it. And hey, we love her for who she is: an independent gal who knows what she wants! Who needs animal friends when you've got human ones? She just doesn't know what all the fuss is about. She doesn't mind being the center of attention with other dogs, heck, she's excited to be with them forever! But she is particular about the type of affair tagged that lets her into her inner circle. If she were in high school, she'd be reading a novel at the fountain, unimpressed with the social circles around her.

Lexi is currently living in foster care to give her a break from the shelter. Ask HSCEE how to meet her!

Visit HSCEE at 1402 Kindness Court, South Burlington. Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., or Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 862-0135 for more info.

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SEVEN DAYS Jobs

YOUR TRUSTED LOCAL SOURCE. SEVENDAYSVT.COM/JOB



ATTENTION RECRUITERS:

POST YOUR JOBS AT
PRINT DEADLINE
FOR RATES & INFO:

SEVENDAYSVT.COM/POSTJOBSJOB
NOON ON MONDAYS (INCLUDING HOLIDAYS)
MICHELLE BROWN: 802-865-1022 X21
MICHELLE@SEVENDAYSVT.COM

Are you an
Engineer,
Teacher or Major
Enthusiast?

Want someone
working
a difference
in young
people's lives?



Director

The G. Wimberly Institute of Vermont has an opening for a new Director of its renowned Environmental Institute. This instead of an academic college, comprises a Vermont high school, an after and summer school, a library, and three dormitories displaying in topics ranging from robotics and environmental engineering to sustainable energy and bioremediation. This position includes flexible hours and flexible location except for the work in residence with students. Most staff return each year. For full job description and to apply: www.giw.org/jobs

Join the Good News Garage Team!

We're hiring:

Lead Vehicle Donation Processor

We're looking for a person to provide day-to-day supervision of the vehicle placement process in GNG's Burlington, VT office. The Vehicle Donation Processor works with donors to ensure vehicle donations happen in an efficient and professional manner, schedules repair work, works with dealers and partner garages, and manages all related paperwork. A working knowledge of cars and car repair is highly desirable. Must have: superior customer service, attention to detail, a valid driver's license and clear motor vehicle driving record. This is a great opportunity to work in a meaningful environment empowering others.

Ready To Go Drivers

We're looking for dependable drivers to safely transport our clients and their children in Montpelier. Must have a valid driver's license and clean driving record.

If you enjoy being part of a fast-moving team, apply today by emailing a resume and cover letter to: njobs@goodnewsvt.org.

Accomplis-Cars-Allied is an equal opportunity employer.



Good News Garage

A member of Accomplis-Cars-Allied

• NFP

Account Manager

We are looking for an energetic, well organized licensed Property & Casualty Account Manager for Personal Lines in our Jeffersonville office. Responsibilities include full liaison work of a current book of business. Salary based on experience.

Send resumes to robin.bradbury@nfp.com

Interested in Starting a Career In Health Care?

Become a Professional Caregiver

No experience required

Free training January 16-26, 2017

VNA Apply online at www.intouches.org or
call. For more info, 802-860-4449



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and TEACHERS

Using a proven formula to recruit
excellent teachers, and teachers to your
growing classroom needs.

Contact us:
denise@leapsbounds.com or 802-869-8116.

**FARRELL
VENDING
SERVICES, INC.**

EQUIPMENT MOVER

Entry-level position for a
motivated individual for
installation of vending
equipment. Experience
with vending equipment
preferred but willing to
train the right candidate.

Must possess mechanical
skills and be willing to learn
various levels of repair. You
must have a clean driving
record.

**VERMONT
WORKS
FOR WOMEN**

VWW IS HIRING! GIRLS' PROGRAM COORDINATOR

This 40 hr/week position operates out of the Barre office to support and implement a diverse array of programs for young women ages 14-24. We are looking for someone with demonstrated experience in program coordination, excellent administrative and communication skills, and experience working with young people. This is a year-round, regular position with a salary starting at \$22.50 plus an excellent benefits package. Travel around northern Vermont required. VWW is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity of the organization and deliver programs to a broad audience. Applicants are encouraged to include in their cover letter information about how they will further this goal.

For a more complete job description please go to vwworksförwomen.org/about/employment/jobs. To apply, please e-mail resume, cover letter, and three references to jobs@vwworksförwomen.org. Application deadline is January 9, 2017. No calls or faxes, please.

VWW is an Equal Opportunity Employer

We offer competitive
wages, benefits and a
challenging environment.

Apply online at
farrellvending.com or in
person at

**Farrell Vending
Services**

405 Pine Street,
Burlington, VT 05401.



VENDING ROUTE DRIVERS

Burlington
and Brandon

We are looking for motivated, responsible individuals. Must be able to work independently, possess a positive attitude, be capable of lifting up to 50 pounds and have a clean driving record. We offer a competitive wage along with benefits.

Apply in person or online at
Farrell Vending Services
405 Pine Street
Burlington, VT 05401
farmavending.com.



MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

Clinician - Substance Abuse

Chittenden Clinic

Provide individual group and family counseling and health issues services to patients dependent on opioids as the focus of an outpatient opioid treatment program. Strong working with experience connecting clients with co-occurring disorders (individually and as a group model), knowledge of substance abuse treatment importance and experience preparing high quality clinical documentation (IADC or AAP) preferred. Excellent attitude is essential, as well as ability to collaborate with team members and community resources. Early-morning shift. This is a full-time, benefit-eligible position with a starting annual salary of \$41,000-\$50,000. Must be mental health license-eligible or licensed, and those who are already licensed as a mental health discipline will receive an additional \$3,000 to the base pay (prorated for part-time positions). Job #209-18076

Laboratory Technician

Chittenden Clinic

This part-time position is for a male lab technician. This position requires overnight or weekend access to our Burlington location in addition to day entry. Early evening hours apply (5:45-11). The person in this position must possess good communication skills, a positive attitude and attention to detail. \$15.00 per hour. Job #209-38628

Registered Nurse

Chittenden Clinic

This full-time position is responsible for safely dispensing medications and intravenous infusions and maintaining all Nursing Department operations. Excellent assistance to fiscal and organizational skills, strong entrepreneurial and communication skills. Reliable, polite, motivated, able to work early evenings. Minimum two years' experience in nursing and education based on that required by State of Vermont for licensure. Full time salary is \$52,000-\$58 plus additional stipend of \$3,000 with annual increase. Job #209-34633

For more information, please visit
howardcentercareers.org.

Howard Center offers an excellent benefits package including health, dental, and life insurance, as well as generous paid time off for all regular positions scheduled 20-plus-hours-per-week.

Applicants needing assistance or accommodation in completing the online application should feel free to contact Human Resources at 802-499-4974 or hrdept@howardcenter.org.

The Technical Connection has been specializing in technical recruitment services for over 20 years. We at The Technical Connection understand the complex human capital needs of Vermont businesses. Whether your company needs a short term employee to help complete a project, or a permanent placement, we have the experience and resources you need to keep a competitive advantage.

In addition to serving our clients, The Technical Connection has been helping career-driven technical candidates upgrade to better and often higher paying positions.

COMPANIES!

Are you sick of working with corporate, franchise staffing agencies that don't understand the IT or engineering positions they're trying to fill?

CANDIDATES!

Are you looking for a better opportunity with a company who pays you what you're worth?

If the answer is **YES**,
then don't hesitate to contact us today!

On the web: vttechjobs.com

Over the phone: **802-658-8324**

WORK WITH US

JOIN OUR TEAM! OPENINGS INCLUDE:

Child Care

Snow Removal

Fleet Desk

Snow Removal

Guest Services/Tickets

Equipment Operators

Housekeeping

Coolers

Lift Operations

Dealmakers

Parking Attendants

Centers

Rental Technicians

Customer Workers

Temporary/Bio Institutions

and more...

Killington employees enjoy great resort privileges, including free lift tickets, retail and food discounts, flexible work schedules and more.



Killington

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW OUR OPEN POSITIONS
AND APPLY ON-LINE AT KILLINGTON.COM/JOBSPAGES

If you need completing the application or require other accommodations please contact 802-223-6000.

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Goddard College

Located in beautiful Plainfield, VT,
we have three benefit-eligible position openings:

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT & CLERK TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Full-time, Benefit-Eligible

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Full-time, Benefit-Eligible

HOUSEKEEPER

Full-time, Benefit-Eligible

Position descriptions and application instructions are available
here: goddard.edu/about-goddard/employment-opportunities.

Goddard College is committed to creating a college environment of a diverse global community and capable of ensuring change. To that end, we are actively seeking applications from qualified candidates from groups currently underrepresented in our institution for the positions.



America's premier innovator, designer and manufacturer of high-performance wire and cable with a 60-year history of providing solutions to the toughest problems in the world's most extreme environments. We excel at developing customized products, utilizing our cross-linked insulation technology that meet power, signal and data transmission needs—no matter how demanding the challenge—while exceeding standards for quality, durability and safety.

MASTER ELECTRICIAN

The plant master electrician will be responsible for all electrical maintenance for our manufacturing facility in Colchester, VT. Primary responsibilities are to install, troubleshoot, and repair all electrical devices and equipment to minimize production downtime and plant maintenance costs. The plant electrician will also help maintainance with its plant mechanical needs, responsibilities and duties. You will also work with new machinery and equipment installations using the power supply and conduit to and between machines and equipment, using hand tools and test equipment.

JOB RESPONSIBILITY:

The master electrician maintains production and quality by ensuring the operation of electrical systems, apparatus, and electrical and electronic components of facility, machinery, and equipment.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master Electrician license
- At least 5 years of related work experience, preferably in manufacturing.
- Able to work from electrical schematics, sketches, prints, and verbal instructions.
- Experience working on motors and controls, electronics troubleshooting, problem solving, equipment maintenance, power trap technical understanding, judgment, attention to details and job knowledge.
- Operate a forklift and work at heights 30 feet or more.
- Have a complete set of tools.

We offer a very competitive salary, profit-sharing, 401(k), benefits, vacation, and a great work environment. Please submit your resume and/or cover letter to:

info@champlainvt.com or mail to 175 Hercules Dr., Colchester, VT 05446

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE



MDS Coordinator

Full-Time, Monday - Friday

The MDS Coordinator is a Registered Nurse who is responsible for the timely and accurate completion of the MDS treatment assessment tool. This critical team member assesses the delivery of high quality care reviewing care plans and care delivery for factors specific to geriatric residents (i.e. physical, cognitive, and socialization factors). This tracking ensures that Wake Robin is in compliance with our high standards of care for our residents. We seek a person who can combine their love of nursing with the skill to manage data and care plan details. While we prefer a candidate with a background or familiarity with MDS-regulations, coding and care planning, and compliance, we will train the right candidate on the job.

Interested candidates please email: hr@wakerobin.com
or fax your resume with cover letter to: HR, (802) 264-5146.

WAKE ROBIN IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.



Web Developer/Programmer

For position details and application process,
visit <http://jobs.pittsburgherle.com>
and select "View Current Openings."

AAA Value in Pittsfield is a fully compliant employee ownership venture through diversity



WE'RE HIRING
Apply to join our team today.

JOHN US!

There's a side of AAA that many people don't always see. More than great travel discounts and roadside assistance, we're a company that can offer you a variety of career opportunities.

Now Hiring:
Insurance Agents and Insurance Agent Trainees
In Montpelier, Vermont

We offer competitive compensation, benefits packages and paid training.

Learn more about what AAA has to offer.
Please visit: AAA.com/careers



The Arbors of Shelburne: A Benchmark Senior Living Community is focused entirely on serving people living with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and other memory related diseases.

\$1500 SIGN ON BONUS

LNAs

full time days

NON-LICENSED NURSES' AIDS

full time days

We offer competitive wages and benefit package.
Must mention this ad and accept full time day shift employment to receive the sign on bonus.

Please call and ask for Alysha to schedule an interview or stop in to complete an application and on-the-spot interview.

The Arbors of Shelburne

Attn: Alysha Curtis

667 Harbor Road, Shelburne, VT 05482
802-985-8600

acurtis@benchmarkquality.com

A Benchmark Assisted Living Community, LLC



DENTAL HYGIENIST

We are seeking a dental hygienist with excellent clinical and organizational skills and a warm outgoing personality.

Come join our friendly, dedicated practice.

Two-three days per week.

Dr. Howard Novak 434-3700

dnovak@richmondentalvt.com

CONNECTIONS GROUP

CONNECTIONS BUYER

KSV is a full-service digitally integrated advertising agency. Our mission is to build, optimize and manage powerful and efficient campaigns. With experience in both branding and direct response programs, we tailor media programs to achieve the objectives of our clients.

KSV is looking for a Connecticut Media Buyer. You will be tasked with creating innovative, productive and well-regulated media buys across a mix of media channels for our clients. This is an exciting role in an ever-changing media landscape.

Job Description:

The Connections Buyer is responsible for all media buying functions for assigned KSV clients. This includes, but is not limited to the execution of Connections plans and monitoring and optimizing of media buys. He/she acts as the primary link of media information internally between the Connections Planners, the Client team and the Systems Group and externally with media partners.

Responsibilities:

- Is responsible for Connections media buying, negotiating and placement for assigned clients across channel, digital and offline.
- Monitors and optimizes all channel activity ensuring buys support client marketing objectives.
- Creates and runs data-analytics reports for media buys and related digital activity for assigned clients.
- Works with Analytics Manager and Connections Planner to identify buy insights and trends as it relates to data analytics for client reporting.
- Participates in preparing client reports and in-client meetings.
- Works with Connections Planners to develop effective and efficient Connections buys.
- Is the direct link between KSV and media partners which includes preparing and sending insertion orders to ensure placement. Assists with creative delivery by compiling creative ad specifications and delivery instructions.
- Negotiates media buys on behalf of clients
- Sets up and implements DFA 3rd Party ad serving tags for digital-display advertising
- Manages client media buying for assigned accounts and works with Syntex Group to reconcile and expedite media partner invoices
- Supports media buying team by establishing buying best practices and looks for opportunities to streamline and enhance the media buying process.
- Handles media related calls with media reps and clients as needed
- Seeks out new media buying partners for assigned clients and to educate the team
- Performs media research and helps with new business when needed

Apply to ksvrecruitment@ksov.com.

220 Harbor St., Burlington, VT 05401
www.ksov.com



Licensed Nursing Assistants

Full-Time Evenings

Full-Time Nights

What you do is important; at least we think so, and our residents agree.

Come to work for Vermont's premier CCRC, and be a part of the community you hoped for.

Wake Robin seeks a dedicated nursing assistant with a strong desire to work within a community of seniors. Wake Robin seeks LNA's licensed in Vermont to provide high quality care in a fast-paced residential and long term care environment, while maintaining a strong sense of "home". We offer higher than average pay including shift differential, great benefits, a positive working environment, and an opportunity to build strong relationships with staff and residents in a dynamic community setting.

We continue to offer generous shift differential for evenings, nights and weekends!

Interested candidates please email ber@wakerobinvt.com or fax your resume with cover letter to HR, (802) 264-8146.

WAKE ROBIN IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.



TOWN OF SHELBURNE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

The Town of Shelburne seeks a full-time Maintenance Technician. This position is predominantly a physical-labor maintenance job and is primarily responsible for the ongoing care, maintenance, upkeep and appearance of Shelburne-owned and/or managed facilities. The position may require working overtime hours on nights and weekends, and requires being on-call 24/7 during winter months.

A complete job description is available at shelburne.org/281/Human-Resources.

Please submit a resume or a Town of Shelburne Employment Application along with three (3) professional references by January 4, 2017 to Suza Conticizzo, Human Resources Coordinator, Town of Shelburne, PO Box 16, Shelburne, VT 05482 or electronically to sconticizzo@shelburne.org.

THE TOWN OF SHELBURNE OFFERS AN EXCELLENT WORK ENVIRONMENT AND BENEFITS PACKAGE, AND IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.



Director of Finance for Accountable Care

ONECARE, VERMONT

In search of a leader who will help design alternative payment models and will provide financial management for OneCare Vermont Accountable Care Organization and the UVM Health Network's Accountable Care Services Department.

Qualified Candidates Will Have:

- + A Bachelor's or Master's level degree in finance, business administration, accounting or economics. CPA is preferred
- + 15-18 years of progressively responsible financial experience
- + At least 4-6 years in a leadership role
- + 5-6 years of experience in the health care industry (preferably in Managed Care or Accountable Care)

Only online applications will be accepted.
<http://bit.ly/1GtNtAFD>
Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or protective veterans status.

University of Vermont
MEDICAL CENTER

UVMHealth.org/MedCenterCareers



Engaging minds that change the world

Seeking a position with a quality employer? Consider The University of Vermont, a learning and research workplace. We offer a comprehensive benefit package including tuition remission for on-going, full-time post-graduates. This opening and others are updated daily.

Director of Enterprise Applications Services - Enterprise Applications Services, Dept. #888888 The University of Vermont's Enterprise Application Services department is a community of highly skilled professionals dedicated to ensuring the success of the University's most critical behind-the-scenes administrative systems. From the moment a potential student applies to the University to that student's graduation, this faculty has to interact; from equipment purchase to student placement, Enterprise Applications Services keeps the University of Vermont running.

We seek a Director to lead the team as it moves through new challenges:
- Organizationally - as the department adopts a new team structure
- Geographically - as the department moves to a new location or the best of current locations

- Technologically - as demand for cloud-based offerings grows and existing applications adapt

Please consider joining our team in vibrant Burlington, Vermont, a city that's studied choice of what to place to live in the country by publications such as *Forbes*, the *Huffington Post*, *Outside Magazine*, *National Geographic*, and *Bloomberg* News.

UVU seeks candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the institution.

For further information about this position and others currently available, or to apply online, please visit our website at www.uvmjobs.com. Job Number 8882-436-1248, telephone 802-656-3058. Applications must apply via our website electronically. Paper resumes are not accepted. Job positions are updated daily.

The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Applications from minority, women, individuals with disabilities and people from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds are encouraged.

We're Hiring. Join Our Team!

E-Commerce Store Manager

City Market has an exciting new position to develop our new E-Commerce program! The E-Commerce Store Manager will work with outside contractors and stakeholder groups to create City Market's new online ordering system, including options for both delivery and in-store pick up of groceries. This new position will work with our Director of Operations to create and execute an e-commerce platform that is user-friendly, meets our needs of customers and offers appropriate products, delivery and pick-up options for our diverse community.

The right candidate will have at least 5 years' combined experience with e-commerce, marketing and customer service as well as a demonstrated ability to review and analyze analytics to evaluate and improve processes. Bachelor's degree or equivalent work experience required. City Market offers a competitive wage and benefits package, product discount and stock room. Apply online today!



Meet Information
and online application at
www.citymarket.coop/jobs



QUEEN CITY
PRINTERS INC.

Tel: 874-1154

http://qcprinters.com

Estimator/ Production Planner

Quality oriented commercial printing firm seeks highly organized individual to join our production management team. Possess experience a plus but will train the right person. Must be proficient with Excel, Word & general computer background helpful, and resume to:

Queen City Printers Inc.
706 Pine Street
Burlington VT 05401
or info@qcprinters.com

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-ing
JOBS!



Follow us for the newest
twitter.com/SevenDaysJobs

SEVEN DAYS
newspaper.com**Sales & Marketing Coordinator**

Seven Days is seeking a full-time Sales & Marketing Coordinator to fill a rare vacancy on our successful sales team. If you're smart, personable and organized – and eager to work with an innovative entrepreneurial staff – we'll want to talk to you. You should have excellent communication skills, incredible customer service skills, the ability to be self-motivated but also a team player and have a positive attitude. Demonstrated mastery of social media and digital marketing for business will be crucial as you will be tasked with helping generate revenue and create new online products. You will also assist with events on some evenings and weekends.

Send cover letter and resume by January 6, 2017 to saleseb@sevendaystvt.com.

NO PHONE CALLS OR
SHIPPING, PLEASE.



QUEEN CITY
PRINTERS INC.

Est. 1951

208 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401

Printing Sales Representative

Quality-oriented commercial printing firm seeks highly motivated individual to join our sales team. If you are interested in graphic arts and have excellent communication skills, sales experience (printing sales helpful) and dual skills with detailed information, send resume to:

Queen City Printers Inc.
700 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401
orinfo@qcprinters.com

**VERMONT PBS****Videographer/Editor**

Vermont PBS is seeking a Videographer/Editor to join our production team delivering high-quality videos for local content or air leads working in locations from our studio, to venues throughout our viewing region, to the great outdoors of Vermont. The Videographer/Editor works with producers and independently to provide powerful images to tell stories in a multi-platform environment.

College degree and a minimum of three years shooting experience in television or equivalent is preferred.

For a complete job description please visit: <http://www.vermontpbs.org/careers>

To apply submit cover letter, resume and demo reel by January 6, 2017 to hrresources@vermontpbs.org or

Vermont PBS
Attn: HR Dept. 2
204 Ethan Allen Avenue
Colchester, VT 05446

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROVIDER

**Vermont Psychiatric
Care Hospital****The State of Vermont**

For the people. the place. the possibilities.

**NURSE EDUCATOR**

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPC) is a 25 bed state-of-the-art, progressive facility providing excellent care in a recovery-oriented, safe, respectful environment. We have an immediate opening for a Nurse Educator whose work will improve patient care and enhance recruitment and retention of staff. Responsibilities include providing employee orientation, oversight of the preceptor program, providing needed training for direct care staff, an educational career path for Mental Health Specialists, and ensuring regulatory compliance.

Apply Online at www.careers.vermont.gov

Nurse Educator - Job Opening #16 6202099

For more information, please contact Scott Perry at (802) 828-2561 or scott.perry@vermont.gov

To apply online to this or any other position, please contact the Department of Human Resources, Recruitment Services, at (802) 860-4700 (voicemail) or (800) 254-0146 (TTY/relay service). The State of Vermont offers an excellent compensation package & is an equal opportunity employer.

VERMONT

Firefighter/EM

The Williston Fire Department, a combination Central Call Department located in Chittenden County, Vermont, has one (1) full-time opening for the position of Career Firefighter/EM. Minimum qualifications are Firefighter II, AEMT and current CPAT certification. Paramedic certification is encouraged, but not required. This is a vacant position with an immediate start date available.

Please mail a resume and cover letter
by December 30, 2016 to:

**Williston Fire Department, Attn: Chief Morton
645 Talcott Road, Williston, Vermont, 05495**

WILLISTON FIRE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

**PAYROLL SYSTEMS
ADMINISTRATOR**

Full paid about where you work and what you do? We are The Institute of Professional Practice, Inc., a non profit human services agency making a meaningful difference in the lives of adults and children with autism and other disorders. We provide residential programs, day support, special education and employment services in partnership with families and in collaboration with public and private health, human service, education and other government agencies.

The Payroll Systems Administrator reports to the Chief Financial Officer and is responsible for processing bi-weekly payroll for our Vermont office as well as recruiting, supporting and collaborating with payroll teams from our state operations in Maryland, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Duties include weekly processing of payroll, reporting data into the general ledger, reporting and record keeping, HRIS administration, year-end processing, tax & garnishments filing and overall data integrity.

Experience with UltiPro and Genus Payroll software packages is definite advantage. We are also looking for 3-5 years of payroll processing experience, a Bachelor's degree in accounting or related field, high level Excel skills and a track record of stability and professionalism.

Join us in a fabulous and friendly working environment at our Berlin, VT office. We offer great benefits including medical, dental, vision, disability and retirement plans. We also offer career enhancement, educational opportunities and much more.

Visit our website for more information: <http://ipp.org>

If interested, please submit your resume and cover letter to:
employment@ipp.org

Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc.

CHILD PSYCHIATRIST

Counseling Service of Addison County is seeking a Child Psychiatrist to join our innovative community health practice. Our multi-disciplinary psychiatry team provides services to adults, children, and families in a collaborative, team-oriented environment. The position is shared between our offices in Middlebury and the offices of Howard Center in Burlington. The psychiatrist will provide direct services to clients, oversight and supervision to clinicians, and consultation to a wide range of agency staff and community partners. The minimum qualifications for this position are a Doctorate in Medicine, completion of accredited residency in general psychiatry and a Vermont medical license.

To apply, please submit cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to **Alexis Eder, Director of Human Resources** at hrr@caac-vt.org or mail to 89 Main Street, Middlebury, VT 05753.



Pediatric EHR Solutions

Technical Solutions Specialist

PCC is looking for a talented, energetic Technical Solutions Specialist to join our company. We are an award-winning provider of software solutions for pediatric practices.

Our Technical Solutions Specialists provide a broad range of technical services to our clients. Responsibilities include providing telephone support, performing remote system administration, researching system improvements and traveling to client sites to install servers, networks and perform upgrades. You will develop enduring relationships with pediatricians and their office staff while you support their servers and networks. This position requires a blend of technical expertise and exceptional customer care and communication skills.

Candidates should have two or more years of professional, client-facing IT experience including Linux and Windows system administration, TCP/IP networking, good security practices, and comfort with hardware configuration and installation.

As a Benefit Corporation, we place high value in client, employee and community relationships. Our company offers a friendly, informal, and professional work environment. PCC offers competitive benefits as well as some uncommon perks. PCC is located in the Champion Mill in Woodstock, VT. To learn more about PCC, this position, and how to apply, please visit our website at pccvt.com/careers. The deadline for submitting your application is January 9, 2017.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Marketing Coordinator

TrueCollins is seeking a creative and strategic thinker to manage the marketing activities of our architecture and interior design firm. For more information, visit truecollins.com/Careers.

truecollins bc
ARCHITECTURE + INTERIOR DESIGN



**INVESTIGATOR POSITION
- PRISONERS' RIGHTS OFFICE**

MONTPELIER

The state of Vermont has approximately 200 inmates serving prison sentences, and the Prisoners' Rights Office is assigned to every complaint that inmates make about their experience either in the criminal justice system or within the prison system. PRD investigators visit the correctional facilities in Vermont and out-of-state on a regular basis to meet with inmates. They also respond to inmate letters and phone calls, and handle issues ranging from inmate disciplinary complaints, concerns regarding mental health and medical treatment, the struggle to find housing, and interpersonal conflicts within correctional facilities. The position requires a high degree of independence and confidentiality, as well as the ability to work well with departmental staff, Department of Corrections employees, and others.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree and four years of professional investigation or case work, or experience as required by the Defender General. Additional work experience may be substituted for the bachelor's degree on a one month per semester basis.

Entry level, PG 22 position starting at \$31.39 per hour. Full-State pension. Position is Exempt but covered by the COG/VERA bargaining agreement. A full job description is available on the Defender General web page under Employee Resources.

Please email resume and cover letter by January 13th to Mary Doerr, HR & Programs Administrator at mary.doerr@defendervt.gov

RSP




SODA BY THE BOTTLE 50% REBATED
www.grocerybuyer.com

GROCERY BUYER (S/T)

Plan, purchase, and merchandise local, natural, organic, and conventional products. Organization, attention to detail, good communication skills and prior experience in food retail in co-op, natural foods, or small store setting required. Return PO Box 239, South Royalton, VT 05068 or salesmarketing@grocerybuyer.com ATTENTION: GENERAL MANAGER by January 6. More info: Adam Smith 802 763 2400.



**Clinical Assistant
(MA/LPN/LNA)**

This is an immediate opening! Wellness Practice in Colchester, VT is seeking a full-time, experienced clinical assistant. We're looking for a team player that is detail oriented, energetic and can work independently in a very busy office. EHR, IM, ERG & phlebotomy skills are required! Experience in scrubs and IVs are a plus.

Please send your resume with cover letter and 3 professional references to practiceswim@gmail.com.

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Marketing and Events Coordinator

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Sales and Marketing Assistant

The Vermont Convention Bureau, a division of the Chamber is seeking a part-time (10 hours per week) to assist in supporting efforts to attract meetings and events to Vermont. Position requires great customer relations skills, proficiency in Microsoft Office applications and ability to multi-task. Database experience a plus. A full job description is available online at lcrcc.org/opportunities.

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Community Inclusion Facilitators: Provide one-on-one inclusion supports to an individual with an intellectual disability or autism. Help folks lead fulfilling lives, reach their goals and be productive members of their community. We are currently hiring for several positions with comprehensive benefit packages. Send your resume and cover letter to staff@ccs-vt.org.

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PART-TIME PHYSICIANS

Department for Children and Families – Disability Determination Services

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The Vermont Disability Determination Services is seeking to contract with part-time physicians with current, unrestricted Vermont licensure (M.D. or D.O.) to provide consultation services in review and assessment of medical case files for disability applications.

Training is provided, and the work is performed at the Disability Determination Office in Waterbury, VT on a flexible schedule during regular work hours with no patient care responsibilities.

For details, questions, and application materials, contact DDS Director Trudy Lyon-Hart at 802-241-2164 or Trudy.Lyon-Hart@vt.gov

All applications must be received no later than 4:00 PM Friday, January 13, 2017.

For more details regarding the Medical Consultant position go to vermontbusinessregistry.com/Job.aspx?JobID=19126

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An associate degree or five years experience after high school preferred. Candidates must have a valid driver's license and reliable vehicle. Criminal record will be conducted for final candidates.

Submit a resume to:
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GRANTS MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST*Housing and Community Development*

The Department seeks candidates with strong financial management skills to assist communities with federally-funded projects as a member of its grants management team. The position requires a high level of accounting, audit and financial management experience. The Grants Management Specialist will provide technical assistance and conduct financial reviews through compliance monitoring, financial audit management and program completion of housing, infrastructure, and economic disaster recovery projects. It will help ensure Department and grantee compliance with program requirements set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The position requires attention to detail, ease in working with the public, strong interpersonal, oral and written communication skills, and the ability to work both independently and as a member of a team. For more information, contact Ann Kroll at annkroll@vt.gov. Reference Job ID #6203226 Location: Montpelier Status: Limited Term, Full-time Application deadline: December 27, 2016

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD ADMINISTRATOR*Natural Resources Board*

The Natural Resources Board (NRB) is seeking a skilled administrator and connector eager to fill the position of Executive Director (NRB Administrator) in our Montpelier office. This senior-level staff position involves managerial, administrative, and supervisory work overseeing the implementation of Act 250, Vermont's Land Use and Development Law. The Executive Director has primary responsibility for managing the five Act 250 District Offices, including recruitment, training, and supervision of the District Environmental Coordinators who administer Act 250 at the district level. Additional responsibilities include developing policy and guidance, accountability for the annual budget of the NRB, and serving as a liaison with the Vermont Legislature.

The Executive Director position requires a proven leader with extensive knowledge of Act 250 and land use principles. The direct supervisor of the ten District Coordinators, whose authority is defined in statute, is a core responsibility which demands a significant portion of the Executive Director's time. This key leadership position assists with major policy formulation and goal setting for the organization and collaborates with state agencies and other stakeholders on legislative and policy initiatives. The Executive Director is also involved in the preparation and delivery of state-wide education and training for staff and appointed district commissioners and outreach to external partners and participants in the Act 250 process.

As the top ranking classified executive at the NRB, the ED is responsible for maintaining continuity and consistency during transitions in state government administration. The ED has an essential role in creating the collaboration within state government that exists outside of political changes.

The position requires strong verbal and written communication skills and a demonstrated ability to work with a diverse range of public, private, and non-profit stakeholders, as well as permit applicants and parties to the Act 250 permit process. The ideal candidate will have considerable knowledge of environmental law, rules, regulations, and permit requirements in Vermont; public administration experience, and a working knowledge of the principles and practices of land use planning. Supervisory experience and a considerable knowledge of budgetary principles and practices are also required. Experience with law, the courts, engineering, public relations, and technology are a plus. The direct supervisor of the position is the Chair of the Natural Resources Board. The Chair, the Natural Resources Board, and members of the nine Designated Commissioners are all appointed by the Governor. For more information, contact Kimberly Lauthier at kimberly.lauthier@vermont.gov. Reference Job ID #6203074 Location: Montpelier Status: Full-time Application deadline: December 29, 2016

*For the people... the place... the possibilities***The State of Vermont****AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR***Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets*

This Limited Service Agricultural Development Coordinator position will focus on coordinating outreach and education to the produce industry around FGAC Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule requirements and the execution of the Vermont Produce Safety Program. This position will engage in the following activities: support the Agency farm and partners in understanding the implications of this new federal rule on Vermont's produce industry; assist with industry outreach and educational efforts; conduct on-farm produce farm visits, lead grant management, tracking and reporting, and support stakeholder coordination and engagement in the statewide produce program. Experience in working with food and farm businesses, specifically produce operations, and collaboratively managing relationships within a network of agricultural producers, state and federal agencies, nonprofit partners, funders, and service providers is preferred. Knowledge of food systems, event coordination, data collection and analysis experience is desired. For more information, contact Abby Willard at abby.willard@vermont.gov. Reference Job ID #6203257 Location: Montpelier Status: Full-time/Limited service Application deadline: December 27, 2016

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN II*Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets*

This Limited Service Program Technician II position provides programmatic and administrative support to staff across the Agricultural Development Division. Major responsibilities include: operating within the Grants Management System to seize opportunities, manage request data, and track deadlines, corresponding with grantees and contractors to obtain required documentation, assisting with grant and contract evaluation and review processes, and collaborating across the Division as part of a high-functioning team. Position involves interaction with agriculture, food and forestry businesses and industry representatives, coordinate with multiple program staff, and state government agencies. Requires significant organizational skills, attention to detail, ability to multi-task, and excellent customer service. Some knowledge of agriculture or food systems preferred. For more information, contact Chelsea Lewis at chelsea.lewis@vermont.gov. Reference Job ID #6203281 Location: Montpelier Status: Full-time/Limited service Application deadline: December 27, 2016

DAIRY SECTION CHIEF*Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets*

Got milk? Vermont certainly does, and if you are anxious to put your public service talents and your leadership abilities to great use, then the Dairy Programs Section Chief position is for you! The Chief guides experienced technical and administrative staff members as they provide regulatory support to Vermont farmers who sell fluid milk and produce a myriad of value-added dairy products, including award-winning cheese, butter, yogurt, and ice cream. The Chief also provides technical support to Vermont's dairy industry members by administering educational seminars in multiple platforms on an ongoing basis. This position allows the successful applicant to engage in a rewarding mix of regulation and education, technical assistance and outreach. Vermont's dairy industry has experienced significant growth in the past decade, especially in the dairy processing sector. Due to this evolution and the many industry advancements that accompany it, the expertise required of the Chief is dynamic. As an advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Vermont Legislature, the Chief should enjoy collaboration, public speaking and complex problem solving. Apply for this position now, and take advantage of the opportunity to join a dynamic group of committed public service providers and thrive in a position where the days pass quickly due to the diversity of responsibilities. For more information, contact Kristen Haas at kristen.haas@vermont.gov. Reference Job ID #6203022 Location: Montpelier Status: Full-time Application deadline: Until Filled

To apply, you must use the online job application at cavens.vermont.gov. For questions related to your application, please contact the Department of Human Resources, Recruitment Services, at 802-865-6700 (voice) or 800-253-0192 (TDD/Video Services). The State of Vermont is an equal opportunity employer and offers an excellent total compensation package.



The State of Vermont *For the people... the place... the providers...*

DEC BUSINESS PROCESS ANALYST

Agency of Natural Resources

This Limited Service position plays a key role in leading the business process analysis and improvement team efforts associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Business Transformation Initiative (BTI). The BTI is a top strategic priority for the DEC's management team. This initiative includes evaluating and documenting current operations; identifying specific business process improvements; and realizing these improvements through process change and, through the use of technology.

Major job duties and expectations include:

Collaborates with management to identify/brief/noce opportunities to improve business processes across the DEC to optimize efficient operations and maximize outcome quality for the DEC's customers.

Serves as a consultative business partner to staff groups on business process design patterns, principles and techniques to ensure that a philosophy of continuous improvement is established for the DEC.

Gathers user requirements through interviews, project teams, focus groups and brainstroming sessions. Works with project team to prioritize requirements and solicits stakeholder involvement. Documents detailed business rules and requirements including workflow diagrams, use cases, data dictionaries, user interface mockups, entity relationship diagrams and other specifications to meet the ANR IT systems developer and/or the project team. Works closely with ANR IT systems developer to develop targeted technology enhancements consistent with business requirements and priorities in addition to conducting user acceptance and regression testing of software. Serves as a liaison between the business units, systems developer, and ANR IT.

Provides training material and instruction to staff during implementation phase of new software or enhancements to existing software. Maintains ANR IT through database reports created to support implementation efforts.

Assists programs and staff in learning and executing business analysis and project management techniques including integration into a DEC foundation for a sustainable long-term lease operation. Efforts may include developing and implementing change management and communication plans to deliver improved organizational performance. Leads/participates in Lean project events. During events works with team to document/brief current and future state workflow processes, establishes core work baselines, assesses process strengths and weaknesses utilizing analysis techniques and quality tools, performs analysis and design of process improvements. For more information, contact Jason Nocella at jason.nocella@vermont.gov. Reference Job ID #620593. Location: Montpelier. Status: Full time/Limited service. Application deadline: December 29, 2016

To apply, you must use the online job application at careers.vermont.gov. For questions related to your application, please contact the Department of Human Resources, Recruitment Services, at 855-855-6700 (toll-free) or 800-253-0191 (TTY Relay Service). The State of Vermont offers an excellent total compensation package and an EOE.



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PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Arlington School

The Arlington School in St. Albans, VT, managed by an approved independent school that serves students in grades 8-12; we need an effective teacher in traditional English and many others therapeutic supports. We're seeking a collaborative and transparent leader for our program. The Director is responsible for leading the program, partnering with DEIS, community providers and overseeing the daily management and supervision of all the children, which include clinical and educational services. We're looking for a candidate who would enjoy working in a collaborative and continuously oriented environment. Candidates must have experience in a didactic education setting, working with children, collaborating with reasonably broad areas, and supervising staff. Experience working with children with PPS and/or IEPs. Master's degree in Counseling or Education required. This is a 11 month position with a full-time, full year salary. NEI offers a generous benefit reimbursement program. To apply please send your resume, a letter of interest and the names of three references to: Suzanne Meldrum, ApprovedSchools@nei.org, deadline 11/21/16.

THERAPEUTIC CASE MANAGER

St. Albans

The NEI St. Albans residential program is seeking a therapeutic case manager to provide comprehensive clinical services to youth and families. We need someone who is flexible, stable, has the ability to provide care/intervention while interacting with multi-systems. The case manager is responsible for collaborating with home and families to develop and goals treatment. This includes providing direct care within the NEI framework. NEI provides evidence-based approaches, family support and a comprehensive benefits package. Master's degree in social work, counseling or related field preferred. Send resume and three letters of reference to: Suzanne Meldrum, ApprovedSchools@nei.org.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

St. Albans

Collaborates with directly with children and youth involved with NEI. She/he experiences multi-system issues, including substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health challenges. Responsibilities include coordination of hospitalizations, long term care, housing, community placement, transition planning, discharge coordination with DEC, and parent education. We're looking for candidates with strong communication and documentation skills, who will work well in a team setting. Experience with Family Team Coaching, family Safety Planning and Family Conference preferred. Bachelor's degree and/or two years' experience in related field required. Please attach cover letter and resume to ApprovedSchools@nei.org.

FOSTER PARENTS AND RESPITE PROVIDERS

Vermont

Make a difference in the life of a child! NEI is seeking licensed homes to support children in need. It takes a license, flexibility and willingness to work in a team are essential. We are also seeking weekend respite providers. If you meet 1/3 the license for the first time or in-continuum or Franklin counties, please contact Bethie Clark at 802-399-1429 or email bjclark@nei.org.

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION SPECIALISTS

Community-Based Services

NEI is committed to improving youth by providing in-only local treatment through intensive, diverse and community integrated methods. CIS is seeking full time, community integration specialists to provide intensive forms of mental health professionals. Responsibilities include working individually with children and adolescents with mental health challenges both in the community and in their homes. The opportunity to bring personal interests/hobbies to them with peers is encouraged. Most applicants must have a bachelor's degree, be able to work evenings and weekend hours, have a valid driver's license, and reliable transportation. Please send one letter and resume to ApprovedSchools@nei.org.

PROGRAM CLINICIAN FOR CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Diagnostic Assessment Program

NEI Diagnostic and Assessment Program (DAP) is seeking a program clinician to provide a comprehensive trauma informed assessment process. DAP provides DAP to trauma-informed assessments, determining an appropriate level of mental health supports for children and families to succeed within the community. The program clinician will be responsible for guiding the assessment process, including a assessment interview, working with a dynamic NEI team, completing clinical documentation and working with community partners to coordinate services. This is a full time position which includes a comprehensive benefits package and multiple training opportunities. A master's degree in social work, mental health and/or psychology is preferred. NEI is an equal opportunity employer. Please send resume and cover letter to ApprovedSchools@nei.org.

A black and white photograph of a man with dark skin and a beard. He is wearing a dark t-shirt and holding a white credit card in his right hand, showing it towards the camera. His left hand is pointing upwards. The background is dark and out of focus.

7

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MICHAEL VAN GULDEN
Founder/President,
Chocolate - under
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1 SIDE dishes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A5

bring that to me," Nagy says. "That's one reason I bought a farm."

And, at the renovated Montpelier Micro Brew, all that elbow should pair pretty well with margaritas.

—S.P.

Crumbs: Leftover Food News

NOW DRY: GOOD MEASURE BREWING TASTES BEER DINE RAISIN BAKERY

In September, Northfield's **GOOD MEASURE BREWING** began distributing logs of its distinctive, balanced beer to restaurants and suppliers across the state. After extensive renovations to its Winooski space, the brewery opened its tasting room on Friday, October 26.

"Our idea is that the tasting room is a meeting place," says co-owner Scott Kowar, who helped open Montpelier's Three Penny Taproom in 2006. "It's a place to fill up your growler, have a pint, have a snack. Food will be simple but will be loaded — just like our beer."

On-site bites include local meats, cheese boards, slives, arts and salted popcorn, but the primary reason to visit the spacious, industrial-style hangout is the beer. Good Measure's eight rotating taps might include sips such as Early Riser, an American cream ale made with Vermont-grown Alewife hops; or Squid's Wish, an imperial American rye ale brewed with roasted malts over peat.

Good Measure's tasting room is now open Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 7 p.m.



Check the Seven Days Food Club blog for an expanded version of this story.

—J.C.

In Rutland, **ONE BAGEL** **LETTER** began serving breakfast and lunch in the former Parkside Kitchen location at 38 Kipland's earlier that month.

The new spot offers classic bagelishes such as bagel breakfast sandwiches or bacon and eggs, along with less standard fare such as bowls of toasted quinoa with chia seeds and raspberries, and wood-fired pizzas topped with eggs, cheddar and chard.

At lunch, pasta can be a basic Margherita pizza with a kale Caesar salad or made on a pie

scrambled with roasted eggplant, caramelized onions, mushrooms and goat cheese. Focaccia sandwiches come stacked with sausage and peppers, carnita chicken salad, or roasted vegetables.

The restaurant, which is now open Tuesday through Sunday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., is the latest from **ABIGAIL AND ERIC MUNOZ**, who also own **PANINO BAKERY** and **PIZZO** in Burlington.

—H.P.

CONNECT

Follow us for the latest food gossip! On Twitter: **Hannah_Potter_Egan** (@HannahEgan_DC), Instagram: **Hannah_Jelly_Cheeny** and **Suzanne_Potterhouse** (@SuziePot).



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Precious China

Homemade Chinese cuisine in Burlington

BY KRYMELIA SARI

Sam Lai has cultivated a habit over years as a chef that supersedes even his survival instinct. Five years ago, Lai was at the back of his takeout store, China Express 2 in Burlington's Old North End, when he heard his wife scream.

He dropped his cleaver on the chopping board and rushed to the front of the entry, where he saw an armed robber reach into the cash register. Thinking that his spouse, Li Rong Lin, had been attacked, Lai chased the fleeing perpetrator. The man whistled outside the store. The robber stabbed Lai in the neck before escaping.

Why did Lai put down his cleaver — a potential defensive weapon — when he heard the commotion?

"The clever never leaves the cutting board," Lai, 54, said ergonomically. "It's a habit. You don't walk around with a cleaver!"

Even more astounding than Lai's logic was that he returned to the store three days after the surgery on his neck. Clearly, China Express 2 represents more than just a decade's worth of his sweat and tears.

"I don't have a kid. But this [store] is like my kid," Lai said. "I make sure it's doing OK even if I get arrested in the next."

Actually, China Express 2 is not Lai's only family business undertaking. He had two previous restaurants — New Ethnic Cafe and ONE Pepper Grill. "I had to fail twice to realize that I can't just immediately hire people," he said.

The unsuccessful ventures left Lai with a mountain of debt, but he carried on, here to pour everything into China Express 2. "I grew up with the store," he said. "I can live a lot of problems. I had to learn through the experience and solve them myself."

During the store's early years, Lai and his wife worked 60 hours every day. Now, with the help of two employees, they can afford to take both their hours — to 12 hours a day, six days a week. Normally, they rest on Mondays.

When I visited Lai to sample some authentic Chinese dishes, it turned out that Monday, December 12, was to be an exception. It was the last week of the school term, and Lai wanted to give his



business a little break before the end-of-term break.

More than half of his store's sales come from local students, Lai said. "Every time the college kids are gone, we feel it right away. The business just dropped."

Lai, a native of China, assumed one he would have plenty of time to cook up the kind of dishes that he and his family would make for themselves.

Lai has 13 years of experience as a chef. But he's been in the food business for more than 20 years. He started out as a delivery boy for his father's takeout business in Union City, NJ, where he grew up. They moved to Vermont in 1990 to start the first China Express on Shelburne Road. In 2006, Lai left that entry to embark on his own culinary path. A fellow Chinese immigrant later bought his father's enterprise.

I GROW UP
WITH THE
STORE.
SAM LAI

Lai was born in the southeastern coastal province of Fujian. His family immigrated to the US when he was 10.

Most Chinese restaurants in this country serve Cantonese cuisine, he explained. "If you see a jester dark hanging in the window, that's Cantonese food," he said. The earliest Chinese immigrants to the US in the mid-1900s were from Guangdong province, historically known as Canton, so it's no surprise that American Chinese food most resembles that style.

Since Lai and his wife spend most of their time at their store, they eat their own meals there. Breakfast is congee — rice porridge or gruel — and pickled vegetables. Other daily fare includes white rice, Chinese bok choy or Chinese watercress, soups, and fish.

Some typical fish dishes that Lai cooks for his family are braised fish

with green peppers and chili sauce, and slow-cooked fish with ginger slices and sweet-chili soy sauce. He usually uses the fish head to make soup with meatballs and ribs.

Lai would prefer to serve more fish dishes to his customers because they're a healthier option. But picking out fish bones is something Western customers still find a challenge. "We were raised to choke all the meat on fish bones," Lai said. "Our tongue will get numbed. We don't swallow [the fish bones]. We spit it out."

In addition, cooking more authentic Chinese cuisine, such as his fish dishes, for his customers would take "a lot of time" and cost more, because he only uses fresh ingredients. "That will not pay the bills for me," Lai pointed out.

By comparison, he can serve up beef rice and lo mein in less than two minutes. It takes about five minutes to boil and then fry his homemade dumplings. Except for house specialties, most of the menu,



such as Sichuan chicken and lo mein pan chicken, cost less than \$10. Applesauce starts at \$1.75, while a pint-size container of wonton soup costs \$2.25.

Although Lau sticks to the mad-and-crazy cuisine of the first Chinese American restaurants, he also follows another old adage: "You don't want to buy pre-made food." That's why he still makes his own dumplings and egg rolls, and he marinates and debones chicken by hand. Sometimes, the store gets so busy and "out of control," as Lau puts it,

he's the only Asian kid in school. When he worked as a delivery boy, he was rubbed at least once a week.

"A good robbery excuse I didn't get beaten up," Lau said. "They just cook my food and run. I had one mecon [10 kids surrounded me and threats practice]."

Those difficulties made Lau adept at dealing with challenges as they come. A couple of days before meeting with *Entrepreneur*, he said, his store had been robbed again. This time, the perpetrator ran off with the tip jar. Lau's response

Kung Pao fish with green peppers and white sauce



that he and his wife stop answering the phone for hours to give them a chance to prepare more ingredients.

Lau and the most popular meal among local college students is General Tao's chicken, a sweet, deep-fried dish. "Young people like fried, sweet and greasy," he noted. Another favorite is crab Rangoon, deep-fried dumplings stuffed with imitation crabmeat and cream cheese. The dish was invented for Americans, Lau said. "It's Chinese fusion food."

While Lau was cooking, a customer came in and told him that the street phone number for home delivery was out of order. Lau assured him it was working. The man left, but he and his fair share of quality customers, and they're mostly harmless, he said — and he has experienced worse.

While he was growing up in NJ, Lau said, he was often bullied because he

was simple. He replaced the rottweiler and tied it to the cash register. The incident didn't perturb him. "Shehe helped," he said.

Instead of worrying about what others may do, Lau prefers to focus on what he can do to make sure his business stays robust. He would like to build a food truck in order to sell Chinese street food during the summer. His rationale: "If I'm losing business because of truck food, I have to be in [the] food truck business."

He won't offer the same type of edibles that he serves at his store, though. "I'd be more authentic, something I would cook for myself," Lau said. ☐

Contact: kymlynn@wendyay.com

INFO

China Express 2, 320 North Street, Burlington, 802-4588 chinarexpressdelivery.com

WEST CORK DISTILLERS

Seeped in long tradition, our three distinct styles represent Irish Whisky-making at its best.

Bourbon Cask: A smooth, round, and full-bodied whisky matured in ex-bourbon barrels, with a subtle and approachable flavor.

✓ Irish Owned and Hand Crafted

△ Triple Pot Distilled

▲ Prepared with Fresh Spring Water sourced from the River Lee

▲ Only Distillery to Malt Its Own Irish Grown Barley



Produced, Bottled and Bottled in Ireland by West Cork Distillers, LLC.
Imported by M.S. Walker Inc., Somerville, MA 01844. MaltV. WESTCORKIRISH.COM
PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY.

calendar

DECEMBER 2016

WED.21

community

CLASSICAL EVENTS: CONVERSATIONS Increasingly infestants take the spotlight at this informal and open-discussion "Storytime" at Montessori Library, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Info: 850-6818.

crafts

CROSS-IN-CLOUDS STUDIO: Adult and teen girls with disabilities learn arts and crafts projects, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesdays, 16-week course. Info: 339-1311.

ENTRANCE & HOME: BRICKLAYING CLASS

Newcomers of all skill levels learn the popular masonry technique. Fairhaven Memorial Library, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesdays, 10 weeks. Info: 462-5805.

events

DROP-IN HIP-HOP DANCE: Participants are welcome to a dynamic session inspired by infectious beats. San Diego, Burlington, 6-8:30 p.m., \$5. Info: 843-8380.

VERMONT SWING DANCE CHARLESTON LESSON:

Students who know the foxtrot, swing, Charleston steps find them easy to learn in advanced class. Champlain Ballroom, Burlington, 6:30-7:30 p.m., \$10. Info: 884-4836.

etc.

ONE-ON-ONE GENEALOGY HELP: Vicki Fornasier with family tree fact. Reading table intergenerationally to discover local and national genealogical help. Princeton Library, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Registration info: 543-5246.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK: A guided movement exercise goes past silent meditation, writing, recitation and clapping circle. * A midwest Collective, the legend, 10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. \$15. Pre-registration info: 543-0695.

TECH HELP WITH CLIP: The Dennis Center develops skills sets applicable to seniors, families, students and other people. Call 802-860-2100 or email: mason.k.young@vt.edu. Free registration info: 858-4555.

film

HAVING PICTURES WILL MAKE ADULT IMMIGRATION: Film follows tales of separated people. Call to director, Judith Public Library, Marlboro, 9 p.m., Free. Info: 460-3881.

food & drink

COMMUNITY SUPPER: A service-oriented meal connects friends and neighbors living in poverty.

Shenandoah Grange, Rutland, 5-7 p.m. \$5. Info: 863-8144, 432-4076, ext. 300.

BARN RISE FOR THE BARNSTORM: Guests, performers and volunteers celebrate such barnraisers as the oldest day of the year. * In Andover, Rutland, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Free. Info: 448-4233.

VERMONT MARKETPLACE: Local producers — farmers, food processors, artisans, makers — spray, smoke, braise and beauty supplies — show off their wares in a diversified house. Vermont Farmers' Food Center, Rutland, 9-11 a.m. Info: 345-4137.

WINTER STOK FARMERS MARKET: Because local fare is accessible to local visitors and tourists at regional markets, the Winter Stok Farmers Market, hosted by Vermont Farmers' Market, 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Info: 462-3880.

galleries

ARTHOUSE CLUB: Stringed players have fun with the popular card game. Rutland, 10 p.m. Info: 863-8144.

health & fitness

EPIC MUSCLE AND MOTION STUDIO: Booted practice and group classes with Heather Salazar include soft being, Pilates, Agilosity, Bootcamp, 7:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Info: 877-959-9528.

EVAN WIEBERG: EVERYTHING ELSE EXCEPT BEIGE: Artwork and art objects from the Orange artist and his studio, including leather, wood, stone, ceramics, accessories. Larimore's, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Info: 802-860-8386.

FOOT CARE CLINIC: Nurses from Franklin County Home Health Agency help patients care for their toenails. Call for details. Vernon Free Clinic, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Info: 827-2705.

GENTLE YOGA CLASS: Hosted by Paul Lavelle, guides students in a variety of yoga styles, including chair poses, seated relaxation and meditation. Champlain Center, no Class. Public Demonstrations Center, Rutland, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 858-3883.

SHREK'S FITNESS BOOT CAMP: Participants get pumped up with an interval-style workout that boosts metabolism, burns fat and tones muscles. Adults over 18 and non-diabetics. Middlebury Municipal Gym, 9 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Info: 343-9388.

INSIGHT PRACTITIONER: Acupuncturists discuss principles and practices. Williston, Montpelier and Remond's Center, Middlebury, 5-7 p.m. Tues. Info: 858-0984.

SUPER POOLPARTIES: Private identifying parties, customized and unique to the diverse individuality and needs. Zeta, Rutland, Montpelier, 10:30-11:45 a.m. Info: 779-0444.

DEC.27 | HOLIDAYS



THE ART HOUSE HOLIDAY CONCERT

Tuesday December
23, 8 p.m. at Art House
Cathedral Presbyterian
Church. \$20 suggested
donation. Info: 868-
2200 www.arthouse.org

Keeping Time

Justin Spencer of Recycled Percussion has played his way from a New Hampshire high school auditorium to the Las Vegas Strip. Since Spencer formed the group in a small Granite State town in 1995, the beat-driven band found its rhythm by turning everyday items — think ladles, dooms, power tools and brackets — into non-traditional percussion instruments. Performances on "America's Got Talent" in 2009 propelled Spencer and his bandmates onto the national stage. These days, Recycled Percussion rock the house at Win City's Saxe Theater. This month, Spencer returns to the Lebanon Opera House with their high-octane corps of drums, horns, acrobatics and signature punk-rock music.

recycled percussion

Wednesday, December 21,
8 and 9:30 p.m. at Lebanon
Opera House, N.H. \$20-\$30.
Info: 803-446-0430
lebanonoperahouse.org

DEC.28 | MUSIC



List your upcoming event here for free!

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

All submitted info must be received by THURSDAY noon for consideration in the following week's calendar.

For classified ads, contact the Classified Ad Department. To be listed, your ad must include the name of event, a brief description, specific location, date, time and contact phone number.

CALENDAR EVENTS IN SEVEN DAYS

LISTINGS AND SPOTLIGHTS ARE ARRANGED BY DAY/TIME. DAYS/ENTS FOR SPOTLIGHT AND STYLE, DEPARTMENT AND OTHER FACTORS, CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS MAY BE LISTED IN EITHER THE CALENDAR OR THE CLASSICS SECTION. WHEN APPROPRIATE, CLASSES MAY BE TAUGHT BY PURCHASED CLASS LEADERS.

Support the Arts

The Art House nonprofit community art center in Chelbury aims to foster creativity in Northeast Kingdom kids and adults. For the third year, the center hosts a holiday concert to draw up support for its programs. This year, funds raised benefit Stand Up for Social Justice, a program centered on exploring identity, diversity and culture through dialogue, workshops, and visual and performing arts. Classical ensemble Master Sound Ensemble stage alongside special guest musicians at East Chelbury Presbyterian Church with selections for violin, cello, flute and guitar. With holiday tunes tuned into the mix, patrons of the arts can help but feel the spirit of giving in the air.

O'er the Fields We Go

Nothing says "season's greetings" and "holiday cheer" like dashin' through the snow in a horse-drawn sleigh. For several days this month, visitors can take in the beauty of Shelburne Farms while being pulled along by the magnificent hooded species. No snow? No warrant! Horse-drawn wagon excursions are an equally fun and festive alternative. Those hoping to have those sleigh (or wagon) bells jingling should dress for the weather and proper at the Farm Welcome Center. These 20-musical jaunts depart every half hour, and each one includes an after-ride, fortification bonus. None, goldyep!

DEC 24 & 26-28 | OUTDOORS



DECEMBER HORSE-DRAWN RIDES

Saturday December 24 and Monday December 26 through Wednesday December 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Shelburne Farms. See website for additional dates. \$8-10. Free for kids 2 and under. Info: 802-865-0412, shelburnefarms.org

HIGH-FLYING FUN



TRIP FLY FUN!

Wednesday, December 26, 7 p.m., at Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Stowe Mountain Resort, 520-4846 ext., 702-4824, sprucepeakarts.org

DEC. 28 | THEATER



a perfect way to wish someone

MERRY & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

KATHY & COMPANY FLOWERS
221 Colchester Ave., Burlington 863-7053 kathyflowers.com

STEPHEN & BURNS
AVEDA SALON SPA & RETAIL
106 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
802.860.3355

Gift certificates available online or in store.

AVEDA
BY STEPHEN & BURNS

calendar

9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.

WHA INTRIGUE (Element, music, visual arts) presents Wha Intrigue, a multi-sensory experience featuring live art, music and dance. Performances are restricted to ticket holders. South End Studio, Burlington, 8:30-10:30 a.m. \$14. For the first three sets info: 375-0707.

PERSONAL BEST SUMMER'S CIRCLE Annual general meeting. Class members, students, parents and friends are invited to enjoy a day of fun and fellowship. Summer's Circle, Burlington, 9:30-11:30 a.m. \$14. For the first three sets info: 375-0707.

RECOVERY & COMMUNITY VIGIL Physical and mental strength & resilience are the results of a strength-based approach to sobriety. Turning Point Center, Burlington, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 375-1855.

RA PAUL (Resilience) interviews process physician, author, speaker, and founder of the highly regarded physical fitness program No Excuses! R. Paul, Burlington, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Info: 375-0707.

TAI CHI FOR ALL Sharon Lopez leads classes for beginners, including those with existing conditions. Burlington Senior Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 375-1855.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ROUND **MATIN** Come to the great vibrato of strings,风笛, fiddle and more. All ages are welcome. —Arising Moon, message to you through the voice. The Whistling Classroom, Burlington, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$15. Info: 375-0707.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DRAMA **LIVELY DRAMA**. That's what the choice drama offers for all experience levels. Burlington Senior Library, 8 p.m. Info: 375-1855.

WEDNESDAYS HOLIDAY STORY TIME Fairy-tale readings with a little magic. Authors will offer light up storybooks when they introduce their historical series. Burlington Public Library, 4-4:45 p.m. Info: 375-1855.

WEDNESDAYS WITH SONYA LEVINE Society of the Silver Ring and their grand piano instruments. Trinity United Methodist Church, Post Street, info: 375-1758.

WEDNESDAYS STYLING A CHRISTMAS CARD New Stems. Stage school presents a festive luncheon. Holiday-themed cards will be created by students. Burlington, 12:15-3 p.m. Info: 375-0700.

WEDNESDAYS WORKSHOPS Data analysis. Author/Poet/Filmmaker for Grief Issues. Pioneer Library, Burlington, 10:30-11:45 a.m. Info: 375-1855.

WEDNESDAYS WORKSHOPS **TAKE CARE** Take a candle apiece to create a scented candle. Burlington Senior Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 375-1855.

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STEM CLUB Instructor with Leslie Hollingson. An hour-long meeting supporting math and science. Burlington Community Library, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Free. For ages 6-12. Info: 375-2428.

STUDY TIME & PLACEMENT Engineering students conduct one-on-one study sessions for students in grades 9-12. Burlington High School, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 436-3554.

WINTER SOLSTICE CRAFT Children learn traditional crafts, including candle-making, quilted pillows, paper snowflakes, and more. Burlington Senior Library, 3-6 p.m. Free. Info: 375-1855.

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BY LINDA

SATURDAY CHILDREN'S BEANIE CLASS Families with preschool children ages 3-6 are invited to bring a mother and/or a sibling or relative to a shopping session for fall apparel. Burlington Recreational Association, Ohio Street, Burlington, 9:30-10:30 a.m. \$10. For tickets, info: 375-1855.

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THU.22**OPC****OPEN STUDIO:** Open studio and art classes for a cause benefit Expressive Arts Burlington, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., \$10-\$12, 802-863-4872.**COMMUNITY DAY****COMMUNITY EXCHANGE:** Businesses come together to share the value of sustainable community projects. The Exchange, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., \$10-\$12.50, 802-863-4872, [exchangevt.com](#).**diabetes****CONTINUING EDUCATION:** Diabetes: Understanding the role of our body's ability to produce insulin in every aspect of our life. North End Studio Burlington, 8-7 p.m., \$5, then the first Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., \$15.**FOR REAL WOMEN SERIES WITH KELLYN DURR****FRIAR OR NOT:** Friar or not? Friar's choice music on the jukebox as an empowering conversation about assertiveness, self-care, healing, sharing, love, grace, Burlington, 3-5 p.m., \$15, 802-863-3110, [realwoman.com](#).**guitar****GAMER, PAINT & WRITE:** Game on! Turn your love of video games into a skillful painted masterpiece. Paint & Write, Burlington, 6-8 p.m., \$15, then the first Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., \$15.**POSTPARTUM SELF-EMPLOYMENT:** Mothers and fathers who are seeking for a career, a service or a venture combination embracing health and family assist the needs of today's families. Postpartum Nurses Burlington, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., \$10, 802-863-4872.**friday night****WEEKEND CULINARY MARKET:** Locally sourced fresh vegetables, fruits, dairy items, breads and maple syrup from independent vendors at the Capital City Health & Fitness, Burlington, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., [fridaynightmarket.com](#).**WEEKEND CULINARY MARKET:** Get-together,**greenhouse****CHITTENDEN COUNTY CHICK-CLUB:** Chittenden County's think tank for concerned individuals as they voice their opinions on things. Folsom Auditorium, Middlebury, Tues, Burlington, 7 p.m., free, 802-863-4872.**FOREST LEARNERS:** Answer yes to: "I'm not afraid of trees," "I'm not afraid to climb trees," "I can identify a tree by its bark." Nature's environment where dendrites can be observed by anyone interested. Angels Magic, Burlington, 3-8 p.m., free, 802-863-4872.**health & fitness****COMMUNITY HIKES:** A 10-week monthly guided program for people who are new to outdoor activities and/or fitness. This fall a discussion about Wilderness Survival Skills, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Tues, 802-223-1880.**CORNHILL FITNESS PODIUM CLASS:** Interval training. Helps you burn excess energy through agility, resistance and cardiovascular fitness. Dennis I. Rodriguez, Tues, First Congregational Church, Montpelier, 7:30 p.m., \$8, 802-362-3600.**FRIDA: THE SAMURAI SYSTEM WORKSHOP:** Students sculpt their own heads, hands, feet and torsos. Focus when doing students reflect on the meaning. March Art Studio, 4, Rutland, 8-10 p.m., \$15, 802-863-3045.**HIGH-INTENSITY INTERVAL TRAINING:** Tones your whole body, burning fat/glycogen and increasing your heart rate. Jennifer L. Johnson, Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m., \$15, 802-863-4872.**WE ARE VERMONT'S HEALTH:** Hearing and storytelling sessions focus on the issue, peers, fun, lots of laughs. Free and professional facilitators, no advance registration required. Greenleaf Studio, 3-5 p.m., \$10 (info), 779-0444.**holoflame****CHRISTMAS BELL:** See WTELL.**MEETING MARTHIN:** Music, history and art in a bag lunch while the organist makes the keyboard dance in an elegant room. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on the Green, Middlebury, 12:15-1:45 p.m., \$10, 802-388-2300.**HOLIDAY STORY AFTERNOON:** Your favorite classic, the conductor of a train bound for the North Pole in The Polar Express, Pierson Library, Williston, 3:30-4 p.m., free, 802-863-3838.**NORTHERN STARLET & CHRISTMAS CHEER:** See WTELL.**Indie****MARY & THOMAS FLAPPERS:** Family concert which kids up to age 5 enjoy lots of dancing, clapping and jostling. Socialickett House Double Syringes, Burlington, 9:30-10:30 a.m., free, info, [growingupindie.org](#).**LEGO CLUB:** Adults welcome! Interlocking blocks, simple developing ideas, building Presidential History, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free, 802-863-4872.**MAIL YOUR LETTERS:** Adults bring the remaining letters to Gates Library, Williston, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free, info, 802-863-4872.**THREEHORN PLAY TIME:** Stories and rhythmic movement for children ages 6 months to 3 years. Doolittle Milling, Memorial Library, Williston, 10 a.m.-11 a.m., info, 802-863-4872.**photographer****NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: WE HAVE A LITTLE LOVE:** Jim McAvoy and Felicity Jones portray a pair of aging performers in Harold Pinter's comic play tragicomedy and broadcast via the big screen. Government Center, 8:15 p.m., January 7-9, 802-863-3000, [ntrlive.com](#).**podiatrist****PRENATAL:** THE STRONG FINS LIBRARY BOOK SALE: See WTELL 26 Nov 7pm.**FRI.23****continuity****PEKING DUKKHOON OR PEASLY TO GO:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. and then guests catch up over a shared meal after policy Seminar. Agency Center, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., \$20, [pekingdukhooon.com](#).**crystals****PINKY'S PASTRY:** Baking pastries just right together for this and other occasions. Pinky's Bakery, Williston, 3-8 p.m., free, 802-863-3838.**climbing****BALTIMORE & LEXINGTON:** Learn new climbing skills (Bouldering, Height, etc.) plus performance in device selection (including multi, large and more). Singles couples and long-termers are welcome. Williston, Johnson Fiberglass Center, Indoor 3-Drop, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., \$10-14, 802-863-5400.**LETTUCE DANCE VERMONT:** Join the matines with the Green Mountain State Dancers in a dance connection. Green Congregational Church, Montpelier, 7:30 p.m., \$8, 802-863-4872.**future & friends****GRIMES ARISTOTELIAN CELEBRATION OF FIRE & LIGHT:** A traditional New Year's Eve celebration. Grimes hosts a procession down Main Street and the fire pit, followed by street entertainment at Greenleaf Studio, 3-10 p.m., free, 802-863-4872.**fixed & drink****WEDDING COCKTAIL MARKET:** See WTELL.**5TH ANNIVERSARY!***Event
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COLLECTOR****235 Main St. Burlington 802-540-1080**[eventhorizonink.com](#)**Our Focus is Your Fertility**

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calendar

DEC 23-25

YOGA RETREAT

YOGA CLUB See [WED, 12:15](#)

Health & fitness

ADULT YOGA Learn how to bring a friend or come solo to this class for adults exploring movement, stress reduction, stretching, alignment and breathing. **Tuesday** Studio 200a, Burlington \$15-\$15 per class. Info: 785-0444.

ADOLESCENT YOGA Introduce your adolescent to yoga. Participants will learn the basics of proper breathing, relaxation, and basic stretches. **Tuesday** Point Center, Burlington \$15. Info: 785-0444.

ADULT YOGA Introduce yourself to yoga. Learn the basics of holding, moving, standing, postures, and basic breathing. **Studio** Waterline (9-10 a.m.), \$15. Info: 785-0444.

**ADULT YOGA WITH
GALLAGHER** A one-hour class with clear and concise instructions, music on the lens, and "real" wireless participants. **Wednesday** The Yoga Connection, Burlington, T 7-43, Info: 253-3675, Info: 785-0444.

ADULT YOGA A one-hour class for all levels, including beginners. **Friday** Studio 200a, Burlington \$15-\$15 per class. Info: 785-0444.

ADULT YOGA Focus on strength, balance and flexibility. **Saturday** Studio 200a, Burlington \$15-\$15 per class. Info: 785-0444.

ADULT YOGA Focus on strength, balance and flexibility. **Sunday** Studio 200a, Burlington \$15-\$15 per class. Info: 785-0444.

ADULT YOGA Focus on strength, balance and flexibility. **Wednesday** Studio 200a, Burlington \$15-\$15 per class. Info: 785-0444.

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ADULT YOGA Focus on strength, balance and flexibility. **Wednesday** Studio 200a, Burlington \$15-\$15 per class. Info: 785-0444.

MAGIC: THE GATHERING FOR TEENAGERS Bring your friends to the annual teen magic show for an afternoon of fun, games, and magic. **Tuesday** Tapia's, Rutland, Poultney, Johnson, 1-8 p.m. Info: 775-0444.

PLAY GROUP Crafts and snacks, minus young'uns. **Tuesday** Cady's, Middlebury, 10-11 a.m. Info: 802-388-1438.

STORY TIME Stories, rhymes and preschool activities. **Tuesday** The Story Room, Middlebury, 10-11 a.m. Info: 802-388-1438.

STORY TIME Stories, rhymes and preschool activities. **Tuesday** The Story Room, Middlebury, 10-11 a.m. Info: 802-388-1438.

SAT.24

etc.

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY MEETING PLACE:

Planning needs to flourish, activity space for local groups, art gallery, and a flying start library, including music, **Pomfret Senior Center**, South Shaftsbury, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free field 654-0289.

food & drink

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events

NAIVE EXPLORATION PLACE FOR CHILDREN

It's a place where kids can play, learn and grow. It's a place where parents can feel safe in their environment. We offer a variety of activities for children, including art, music, dance, theater, sports, science, technology, and more.

OUTDOORS
EXPLORER HABITAT **BRIMLEY RIVER** Guided tour. It's a guided tour of the river, featuring various species of fish along the way. Depending on the season, there may be different types of fish to see. The tour is approximately 2 hours long. Cost: \$25.00. Free. Pre-register. Info: 802-882-2200.

SUN.25

community

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS WITH THE CENTER FOR HUMAN RELATIONS

Powerful people, former bigoted conservatives and interactive discussions. Burlington Senior Housing House, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Info: contact with the center by email or calling 802-862-8810.

Holiday

CHRISTMAS HALLS

Burlington: New WFCI, 6:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY PARADE & MARKET

Morn: Stroll and shop at downtown Burlington's annual market. University Unitarian Fellowship of Burlington, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Info: 802-862-0000.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Evening: Come to a hearty meal with others.

Contact: Methodist Church, Route 2, Box 214, Freeport, Maine 04032.

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT The land of Vermont shines at night with its lighting complete with outdoor, indoor and kids' decorations. University Center, University of Vermont, Burlington, 4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 802-545-5380.

MON.26

dance

ADULT AERIAL BARRE CONDITIONING

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced dancer, Miles Barrage will teach, guide and condition you for the adult aerial studio. Burlington: 10 a.m. (802) 463-4753.

ADULT CONTEMPORARY BARRE

A weekly class for intermediate and advanced students of contemporary, modern and street dance. Burlington: 10-11 a.m. (802) 463-4753.

CONTACT IMPROV CLASS #2

Improvise in sketch, show, play and improvisation while exploring this class! (Previously "y'know") 2nd after school class. Contact: Adonis (@) improvvermont.com. Burlington: 7:30-8:15 p.m. (802) 463-2306.

GALLAUDET

Discover the Gallaudet experience of American Sign Language, Deaf culture and communication. The Deaf in the Deaf Culture Class, Burlington, 6-8 p.m. Info: 802-743-2023.

arts

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Three-wheelie double hand roller skating. Come to the Social Gatherings on the first Saturday of every month. The location is the Beach Cafe, Montpelier, 6-8 p.m. Cost of rental skates: Info: 802-450-4201.

film

WARMWILLIAMS'S THEIR, THERE, & EVERYWHERE

Documentary screening and discussion. The film follows the life of a woman who has chosen to live without possessions. She lives in a tiny cabin in the woods. She practices frugality, minimalism, and self-sufficiency. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Stowe Mountain Resort, Stowe, Vt., 7 p.m. Info: 802-253-4534.

gymnastics

ENDLESS CLASS

Burlington: New WFCI, 7 p.m.

THE BATTING - MONDAY NIGHT

Modern Twinkies Shopping Malls. Want to compete? Don't let price be a weekly

issue. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Stowe Mountain Resort, Stowe, Vt., 7 p.m. Info: 802-253-4534.

Health & Wellness

NAIVE EXPLORATION

Bringing fun, movement, dance and healing arts sensory-based environments for participants to find their potential. South End Studio, Burlington, Form. 104-106, 523-8600.

RAPHAEL

South End Studio, Burlington, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY YOGA

Burlington: New WFCI, 7 p.m.

WOLKE THERAPY GROUP

Participate in group therapy sessions for individuals who have a desire to work toward the goals they have set for themselves. Burlington, Form. 105-106 p.m. Free. Info: 802-4293.

TRINELL

New WFCI, 7 p.m.

holoflare

CHRISTMAS AT THE THEATRE

Burlington: New WFCI, 7 p.m.

NUMBER ONE CLASS

Advanced levels connect and grow interests from the youngest. Burlington: FID-101, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Info: 802-862-8810. Burlington: 105-106, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Info: 802-862-8810.

Info

KIDS AERIAL FABRIC DANCE CLASS

Adventureous younglings ages 7 through 12 learn balancing, flexibility and space on fabric. Burlington: 105-106 p.m. Info: 802-862-8810.

TEENS & YOUTH AERIAL FABRIC DANCE CLASS

Adolescents are suspended in the air through grace and ends with acrobatics. Burlington: 105-106 p.m. Info: 802-862-8810.

Info

ADVANCED LEVEL SPANISH CLASSES

Language learners perfect their pronunciation with Spanish speakers. Burlington: 105-106 p.m. Info: 802-862-8810.

music

SHAYAH CLASS

Heads down as an exciting instrument joins in. Community instruments available. Turning Point Center, Burlington, 2 p.m. Free. Info: 802-862-8810.

MENTAL MENT COMMUNITY KARAOKE

Instruments are welcome! Bring a response charting of musical genres (movies, TV shows, songs, etc.). Burlington: 105-106 p.m. Info: 802-862-8810.

outdoors

DECEMBER HIKING-DRINKING HIKES

Burlington: New WFCI, 7 p.m.

sightseeing

GO BY ICE, AN ICEABLE SOLUTIONS 100

Iceable Solutions offers a unique service for winter gurus: companies have their own after-work parties for slushy cocktails featuring their computers (or whatever type of weather). Info: @cycle-Vermont, Burlington, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Info: 802-343-4405.

Education

MENTAL STATE IMPROV

Emerging creativity explores the boundaries between theater games and acting techniques for setting up improv. The Vermont Co-op, Burlington, 8-9 p.m. Free. Info: 802-862-8810.

TUE.27

community

PEACE TOGETHER OR PEACE TO BE

Burlington: New WFCI, 7 p.m.

ENDLESS CLASS

Burlington: New WFCI, 7 p.m.

THE BATTING - MONDAY NIGHT

Modern Twinkies Shopping Malls. Want to compete? Don't let price be a weekly

issue. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Stowe Mountain Resort, Stowe, Vt., 7 p.m. Info: 802-253-4534.



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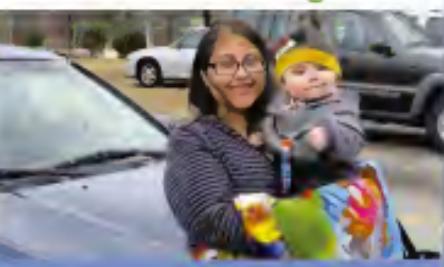
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calendar

JULY 26-29, 2018

TUESDAY VOLUNTEER NIGHTS Helping hands put in around the shop by organizing parts, moving items and assisting other projects. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Blue Bucket Hardware, Marlborough, 5-House, Free, Info: 261-8687.

crafts

OPEN CRAFT NIGHT Creative sparks fly at the Studio as all levels attend various art, knitting and crocheting, knitting and sewing projects. Blue Bucket, 5-House, Marlborough, 5-House, Free, Info: 261-8687.

dances

REBELLION WEST COAST SWING 8 P.M.

DANCES Pros per school teach fundamentals of partner dances. Westhill Studio, 8-House, 8-10 p.m., \$17. Info: WesthillSwing.com

INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED WEST COAST SWING Pros rig up their best moves. Beginner readings of moves and teaching. Westhill Studio, 8-House, Marlborough, 8 p.m., \$17. Info: WesthillSwing.com

SWING DANCING Dance-Ahead participants experiment with different forms, including Lindy hop, Charleston and West Coast. Beginners are welcome. Dance-Ahead, Marlborough, 7-8:30 p.m., \$5. Info: 444-2238.

film

KINSHIPS OF THE MYSTERIOUS GUIDE (Drama) Islands where camp leaders are forced to defend productivity. Main Street Studios, 20th Floor, Jersey City, 8 p.m. on Tues., Info: 261-8778.

THE MIGHTY DURK (Drama) Extreme stress as the owner of a struggling auto body shop finds him-

selfly. Paramount Theatre, Rutland, 7:30 p.m., Free, Info: 375-0600.

THREE AT HAMMERSMITH Seven students who a fracture disagree during a year in this 1970 drama. Playhouse, 5-House, Marley Landing Performing Arts Center, Marlborough, 8-10 p.m., Free, Info: 560-8616.

food & drink

WIGGIE'S MARKET

See WIGGIE'S

WIGGIE'S

WIGGIE'S See WIGGIE'S, Tysons.

CHOCOLATE A night of chocolate at this tasting room is a visual,olfactory, taste and sightful experience. The Beanery, Marlborough, 8-10 p.m., Info: 360-3234.

health & fitness

BRANDON FITNESS SUMMER CAMP Ages 5-12 Get fit with strength, endurance, agility and coordination activities. Green Valley Ranch, Canyon Open, Marlborough, 8-10 a.m.-3 p.m., Info: 360-3118.

GO-INTEREST TUTOR An interesting and challenging one-on-one tutoring session helping and orienting future college students. 45-45 Tp., 4th Fl., Info: 444-6424.

GYMNASIUM FUND See PTA, 23.

PEACEFUL WARRIOR GARAGE Mental arts training programs available here for those in recovery.

Running Head Center, Marlborough, 1 p.m./Free, Info: 861-0550.

DUANE IN THE ALLIANCE Conditioning is disrupted as a party of six cyborgs return to Earth. 8:30 p.m., Showplace, Marlborough, 8 p.m., Info: 360-3216.

Joe Hoffman

WHAT'S NEW THIS

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Theatre Brook presents Special guests include classical instruments, soloists, choirs, the Boston Celtic Pipe Band and more. 7 p.m., Info: 360-3230.

CHRISTMAS IN LUDLOW

Activities will begin at 10 a.m. Building the legend LEGEND

In Rehearsal, then light the tree.

Marlboro Center of the Arts, Marlborough, 3-10 p.m./Free, Info: 360-3230.

CHRISTMAS AT THE FAIR

See SATURN

Relief

CANDLEMAKING FUN Pending facilities use paper tubes to make candles. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m./Free, Info: 360-3230.

PAINT YOUR CANVAS The young and/or young-at-heart can learn painting basics in an instructional class. Marlboro Center of the Arts, Marlborough, 4-45 p.m., \$10, Info: 360-3230.

JAGDHORN HORNS WORKSHOP IN DRUGSTORE Realistic hornblowing skills offer encouragement and instruction. Study lesson fees in three-part series. Jayne's Public Library, Marlborough, 8:30-11:30 a.m., fees: pre-registered. Smith System, Info: 426-5581.

UNIDENTIFIED CHALLENGE Burlington builders tackle 200-foot-tall wooden monoliths. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 1000 South Main St., Marlborough, 8 p.m., Info: 444-8775.

MAGIE: THE EXTRAVAGANZA FOR TEEN/TWEEENS

SATURDAY MAGIC Magician makes eggs II through Spring, and dinner until the afternoon. Burlington (Welles) Mill Building, Marlborough, 11:30 a.m.-noon, Free, Info: 360-5893.

READ TO ME: TUESDAY THE VOLUNTEER Story time for children ages 2-5. Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at Marlborough Library, 4th Floor, 360-3230.

VISITORS STORY TIME Guest readers ages 0-3, including parents, grandparents, relatives, neighbors, and day-care workers. Marlborough Memorial Library, Glastonbury, 10:30-11 a.m. in Free, Info: 360-3230.

INTERMISSION Story time for children ages 0-3, including parents, grandparents, relatives, neighbors, and day-care workers. Marlborough Memorial Library, Glastonbury, 10:30-11 a.m. in Free, Info: 360-3230.

BEGINNER-LEVEL SPANISH CLASS Basic conversational skills are taught in a group of registered learners. Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Marlborough, 8 p.m., Info: 360-3230.

LA CAJUN FRENCH CONVERSATION Native French speakers and enthusiasts learn French grammar and pronunciation. El Gato Cantante, Burlington, 4-6 p.m., Info: 360-3230.

PARIS CAFE FRENCH CONVERSATION French language classes meet once per week in Paris Delight. New Milford, Marlborough, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Free, Info: 360-2421.



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vt.com/next

OPEN JAN 2020 **Holiday Village** (Vt. 106) will open after the new year. The Whistlers Co-op, Burlington, 34 guns. Info: 802-862-8200 ext. 2024.

outdoors

RECOMMENDED: CRABBE RIDGE (See OCT. 24)

sessions

MUSICALS & YOU: AN INTRODUCTION TO

MUSICALS Members of the Central Vermont Drama Guild will present a musical introduction to the basics of drama and playwriting. Central Vermont Council on Aging, 3rd fl., 38 Queen St., Montpelier 05602. Info: 802-860-6508.

sports

WOMEN'S FILPAC BASKETBALL (See WED. 21)

WED. 28**crafts**

KNITTING & MORE: BIKINI STRIKE LACE (See SAT. 27)

dance

KPOP IN HIP-HOP DANCE (See SAT. 27)

etc.

NURSING BEYOND A YEAR MEETUP:

Breastfeeding parent supporters over toddler age plan to discuss nursing and healthy eating habits. Details at vt.vtmeets.com/meetups/19-30-nursing-beyond-a-year-meetup. Info: 802-545-1279.

ONE ON ONE FINANCIAL HELP (See WED. 23)

WILDLAND SKILLS CAMP: Men and women discuss issues related to the end of life. Pyramid Holistic Wellness Center, Rutland. \$75 per. Info: details@pyramidholisticwellness.com. 802-774-0011.

TECH HELP WITH CLIP (See WED. 21)

food & drink

COMMUNITY SUPPLY (See WED. 21)

VERMONT FARMERS MARKET (See WED. 21)

VERMONT FARMERS MARKET SET

WEBSITE

BUZZ CLUB (See WED. 21)

Health & fitness

SPC

HEALTHWISE

HEARTLINE (See WED. 21)

EATERY

WEEKENDER

EVERYONE TALKS (See WED. 21)

GOHAR TAI CHI (See WED. 21)

GINGER'S FRESH FRUIT

CAMP (See WED. 21)

GOHAR THERAPEUTIC (See WED. 21)

GOHAR THERAPY

GOHAR YOGA (See WED. 21)

GOHAR YOGA

IT TAKES A VILLAGE, PEOPLE!



Seven Days supported these local organizations and initiatives through event sponsorship and subsidized advertising in 2016.

We encourage our readers and advertisers to give generously to local causes that keep Vermont healthy, connected and entertained.

Short on cash? Volunteering your time and talents also counts. Already giving? Spread the love and recruit a friend to match your generosity.

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All of Me Documentary
BCA, "Clark Deafies" Festival of Pools,
"Off Land and Local"
BODIM VT Brum Festival and Disability
Identity Project,
Burlington Book Festival
Burlington Discover Jazz Festival
Burlington Wine & Food Festival
Chittenden Mini-Motor Fair
Buy in the Butt and Butt Ball
Go Good Festival
Flynn Space
Gather on the Run
Green Mountain Comedy Festival
Innovation Week
July 3rd Celebration
KEP Presents performance series in the MEK
The Kids Are Alright
Kids Day
Kingston County Proddectors
Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival
Magic Hat, Mardi Gras, Hailey Fest,
Oktoberfest, Wall to Gorham
Nighttime Vermont
Northwest Nightmares Film Festival

Outright Awards and Not So Silent Auction
Over the Edge for the Flynn
Pechalucha Volume 20
Penguin Plunge for Special Olympics
Shelburne Farms Harvest Festival
Shen Yun
South End Art Hop
Snow Car Classic
Stone Brewers Festival
Vermont Brewers Festival
Vermont Burlesque Festival
Vermont Children's Trust Founder's "Spirit of '92"
Vermont Comedy Festival
Vermont History Expo
Vermont International Film Festival
Vermont Metal Gallery
Vermont Shakespeare Company
Warren Miller Entertainment
WBDMS Spring Conference
Zombie Run

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Intersection ROUTE 100 - ROUTE 11

File Under Xmas

Four local holiday albums you (probably) haven't heard

BY SAM ROLLES

Few things in the realm of popular music are as diverse as Christmas music. For Clark W. Gossard types, the cheery jingles start ringing out like silver bells by Thanksgiving, if not earlier. For those with more Grinchian inclinations, all they want for Christmas is to stop the hell out of carbomb of Muzak. And then there are the people who, whether for religious or personal reasons, couldn't care less about Rudolph or Frosty or baby Jesus — yet are still deluged with saccharine songs every time they hit the mall, marketplace or grocery store.

Perhaps owing to its North Pole-like charms, Vermont suffers no shortage of hometown Christmas music. So, if this is your thing, here are four examples of lovable yuletide releases from this year. ☺

LANE GIBSON JR.

& LANE GIBSON SR.

Christmas With the Gibsons

[self-released digital download]

If you've ever longed to spend the holidays with Lane Gibson Sr. and his family, here's good news for you! The recording engineer and his son, Lane Gibson Jr., have released a new album of holiday classics, aptly titled *Christmas With the Gibsons*. It's probably the next best thing to waking up on Christmas morning at the Gibsons' Charlotte home.

The album includes eight traditional hymns and carols, largely of the non-secular variety. You'll have to look elsewhere for "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer." Each tune here was arranged by the father-son duo for voice, acoustic guitar and/or keyboard.

The performances throughout are unusually polished and heartfelt. The younger Gibson handles all lead vocals and sings with a clean and passionate tone. His clear renditions of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Do You Hear What I Hear?" are especially pleasant. And his dad's backing harmonies and instrumental work are expertly understated.

Though their song selections and arrangements are tasteful, the Gibsons don't break much new ground with either. There are two notable exceptions: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Both tunes come in the album's second half, which is dominated by hymns, and each is colored by moodily synth work that lends the songs a darker tone. Fortunately given how straight the Gibsons play the rest of the album, these anomalous cuts add surprising intrigue to an otherwise cozy Christmas record.

lanejohnsgibson.com



TARYN NOELLE
© Taryn



Christmas in Vermont
CAROL ANN JONES

THE WOODS TEA CO.



SEASONAL SELECTIONS



SOUNDbites

2016 Year in Review

There's no exaggerating it: 2016 was off. From a rash of meadow tears passing away to the election of an orange-skinned megaymane next to the White House, there was not a lot to feel good about in those past 12 months.

It wasn't exactly all bad in the Vermont music scene, either. Through there were some high notes, we experienced our fair share of darkness this year, too. With that in mind, let's take a look back at the year that was in Vermont music.

The passing of **DANIEL MORIN**, notwithstanding, January was a quiet month locally. Hopefully you'll enjoy the downtime, because things get interesting in a hurry.

In February, local beer boozers **BLAH NEHRMAN** (Magic Hat Brewing, Seventh Generation, Gardner's Supply) brought out Higher Ground co-founder **KRISTEN LARSEN** and announced co-ownership of the rathskeller with **KEITH COTTRELL**. As from an oddly concomitant new logo, the average fan probably hasn't noticed much of a change at the club, so Nehrman's work has mostly been behind the scenes to this point. But given his track record, especially with Magic Hat, it will be interesting to see if and how

Nehrman makes his mark on the area's unique live-music spot in 2017.

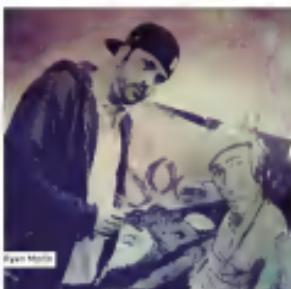
In March, local filmmaker **TYSON FESTY** premiered his long-awaited documentary on beloved 1990s Burlington rockers the **Paris**, *High Water Marks: The Rise & Fall of the Paris*

— which includes my brother — served as the house band for the show. If you were a product of the 1990s, real sense in ETK, or have just been curious about that era, do yourself a favor and check out the film.

In April, tragedy struck with the unexpected death of local rapper and DJ **MORIN**, aka Mr. Morin's reach extended well beyond the hip-hop scene, and his passing reverberated throughout the greater Burlington community. As his **UNDEAD** partner **RYNO** told one, "Morin's never been in many rough gigs—crying and hugging each other as you have since Ryno died. There's a lot of sad rappers in this town right now."

Indeed there were. But 2016 may offer a little bit of solace to Morin's friends and fans. The old handiwork, the **ARTIST**, are working on a new album of material to be released as the **ADMIT FAMILY**. In addition to original **Artist** members **PAUL** and **UMA**, the family also includes rappers **KIM** and **MARK**, songwriter **JESSIE**, and **MORIN'S** brother, drummer **CHRIS MORIN**. Look for that album next year. We missyou, Ryan.

In May the cool kids from Waking Windows presented a special festival season in Vermont with Waking



After 10 years in the making, the flick debuted with a screening and concert at the Higher Ground Ballroom, featuring *Fangs* front man **TOM LASKIN** and an all-star cast of local past musicians. Both the film and the concert were wonderful. And I'm not just saying that because I'm in the movie or because



THU 12.22 *HGT The Final Performance
Malliyahu*
7pm, \$15, general

WED 12.21 *HGT The Mystery
Redfish: A Tribute
To Sunshine*
Special Guest
7pm, \$15, general

FRI 12.30 *HGT The Final Performance
Malliyahu: The Secret
Tour Dates, modified*
7pm, \$15, general

SAT 12.31 *New Queen's Eve*
7pm, \$15, general

WED 1.11 *Gypsys*
7pm, \$15, general

SAT 1.14 *Laurie Berkner*
Family-friendly Matinee 11am & 2pm

SAT 1.14 *Eat, Listen, Binge with us
Dead Sessions*
7pm, \$15, general

TUE 1.17 *Batsik*
7pm, \$15, general

FRI 1.28 *Bricktop, Swimmer
and Guests*
7pm, \$15, general

SAT 1.29 *Rocketstedt*
7pm, \$15, \$15, \$15, \$15, \$15
Ticket Market

JUST ANNOUNCED —

- 2/11 **Isis Wilson**
- 2/12 **Tobie**
- 2/13 **Derolite**
- 2/23 **Emily**

- 2/11 **1211 White Rail, South Burlington**
- 2/12 **10pm**
- 2/13 **10pm**
- 2/23 **10pm**
- 2/24 **10pm**

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SAT: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5PM
SUN: 2 & 3PM

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music

File Under Xmas BY JEFFREY M. STONE

TARYN NOELLE & FRIENDS.

Feels Like Home

[Self-released, CD]

There are only so many classic Christmas tunes out there. As such, Christmas albums, especially on the jazzier variety, tend to rely on a similar brand of standards. That's precisely what makes *Feels Like Home*, the new holiday album from Taryn Noelle & Friends, interesting. While the record contains plenty of chestnuts to roast on an open fire, Noelle takes a broader view of what a holiday song can be. The result is a winning, familiar-but-fresh mix of beloved classics and unconventional material.

The veteran jazz singer opens the record with "Baby, It's Cold Outside," a duet with pianist, composer and co-producer Jim Davidson. The pair is no Eli and Louis — who'd be? — but they display finely chemistry. Noelle closes an lovingly rendered version of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

In between, the record leans heavily on tunes not generally considered to be holiday music. Alongside "I'll Be Home for Christmas" there is Irving Berlin's "Count Your Blessings (Instead of Sheep)" and Randy Newman's "Feels Like Home." In addition to "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" there is the David Foster-penned and George Jones-popularized "The Prayer" and Joni Mitchell's "River."

Baked by an all-star ensemble of local jazz talent, Noelle, with her effortlessly smoky croon, reminds us that the most important part of "holiday spirit" is the latter word. (Which is not the same as putting the Christ in Christmas, thank you.) And that ought just fine a Christmas album to bring you home.

CAROL ANN JONES.

Christmas in Vermont

[Self-released, CD digital download]

Christmas in Vermont, the latest album from Georgia, VT-based Carol Ann Jones, bills itself as a "reverberating album reminiscent of a country Christmas in Vermont." Inspired by the rootsy Christmas albums of yesteryear, Jones' track evokes the nostalgic feel and sound of the holidays.

Credit for that feel belongs squarely to her lurching band. Multi-instrumentalist Will Turner, guitarist Dan Schubauer and percussionist Gary Spaulding deliver just the right touch of swing to favorites such as "White Christmas," "Jingle Bells" and "The Christmas Song," among others.

But Jones is no slouch. She sings in an unadorned style that's never flashy. Periodically given the time-honored material with which she is working, she wisely plays her performances straight. These cuts are classics for a reason, and Jones is able to both honor those tunes and impart a subtle touch of her own urticating personality to each. *Christmas in Vermont* would be a fine accompaniment to any trip to the Christmas tree farm or snowy drive through the country-side.

THE WOODS TEA CO.

Seasonal Selections

[Self-released, CD digital download]

It's unlikely that any local band has recorded and released more seasonal music than the Woods Tea Co. Since releasing its first holiday album in 1981 — a full 20 years after it was founded — the acclaimed Vermont folk group has produced six such records. WTC are the soundtrack to the holidays throughout the Green Mountains.

The band recently released a seventh Christmas record, *Seasonal Selections*. Composed of choice cuts from past albums, the album is a prestige-dot compilation that fans might find an absolute essential for Christmascene.

WTC's general repertoire spans centuries and continents. Likewise, the material here ranges from traditional British folks and continental European folk selections ("For a Few") to sonorous hymns ("O Holy Night") to novelty songs ("Dalek Kukimba"). There are also original works by Vermont songwriters such as Pete Case, Peter Sutherland and Howard Waide.

Each song is performed with WTC's incomparable skill and taste. Warm, cozy and rustic, *Seasonal Selections* is the musical equivalent of sipping mulled cider by the woodstove on a bleak winter's night.

www.woodstea.com

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SPEAKING OF COMEDY
check out the "Purrfect Pooch"
column. It's a new humor column
on local news that hasn't
happened yet.



SOUNDbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 63

Windows 6, the biggest and best edition of the annual Winoski music festival to date. Last year, the fest was sold-out, featuring a diverse blend of big-name favorites (NIGHT, PHARAOH'S APPALACHIA, SPIDER SISTER), cutting-edge up-and-comers (SPEAK LOW, AND THE KIDS WILL BE ALL THE LOCALS) and the second edition of WV in Portland, Maine, in October was also a success.

Also in May, BTV artist and **MURKEDROPS** founder **SAUL RUEVAN** teamed up with famed indie-pop singer-songwriter **KAREN** for an evocative multimedia tribute to Bowie, "Farewell, Starman: The Music of David Bowie Re-emerged." Held at the **ECRQ** Lesley Center for Lake Champlain, it was, simply put, one of the two or three best shows of the year in Vermont.

In June, the massive slate park on the Barleyhouse waterfront was officially dedicated to the late, great DJ, artist and slater **ANDY "A-BOY" WILLIAMS**. Not only that, but skating legend **TONY HAWK** made a surprise appearance to shred the new park in front of hundreds of revellers. We miss you, Andy.

Also in June, public local day-groover Big Henry World celebrated its 20th anniversary Undisputedly some volunteers working for BHW right now hadn't yet been born when **ANNE LOCHMILLER** founded the non-profit. That bittersweet kind — and makes me feel really old.

Also in June, the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival gave us yet another great 10 days of jazz, funk, soul and reggae. Also on the short list for best shows of the year: **RANDY NEWMAN**'s headlining solo show at the Flynn. Mind-blowing.

In August, another beloved 1990s-era Queen City band reunited: **THE PLE-**

ASSED, because I hear them as much as I do the Pixies, but the band set at the Monkey House was probably my favorite local-made moment of the year.

Also in August, **Montpelier's** last spot Charlie-O's World Famous — aka the greatest bar in the world — celebrated its 40th anniversary.

In September, fans found perhaps the greatest dilemma in Vermont music history: whether to check out **Madols** on Main, the unpredictable street festival hosted by the now-defunct psych-pop phenoms, which closed down one of Burlington's Internet streets, or to go to the Champlain Valley Fair in Kasota Joneses to see **VANILLA-ICE**, **SALE-1-FPA**, and **YOUNG MC**, among several other '90s hip-hop throwbacks. Fortunately, both shows were great, so it was impossible to make a bad choice.

Later that month, **BRIGITTE** again held Grand Pastry North, her end-of-summer bash at Burlington's Whitefront Park. As per usual, it was a blast.

October saw still more band reunions. In Stowe, acclaimed 1990s acid-jazz greats **RELISHES** rocked a two-night run at the Rusty Nail in Stowe. And though it received far less fanfare — perhaps because the band only stopped playing three years ago — **Montpelier** nerd-metal outfit the **GRATEFUL DEAD** reconvened for a show at Charlie-O's.

In November ... You know what? Pack November.

In December, iconic Burlington venue 242 Main closed its doors, ending a 10-year run as the oldest all-ages punk club in the country. In celebration, the club hosted a duplex punk and hardcore basement featuring some of the

finest bands from the local heavy-music scene past and present.

Though the future of the club is uncertain, there's a push to save the space and preserve the club's legacy. A documentary on 242 is in the works, to be lined by — who else! — local filmmaker **Stanton**. Look for updates on both in the months to come.

Friendly — and to end on a positive note — as December the Monkey House celebrated an 10-year anniversary as the hippest, funnest and bestest live-music hot spot in Winoski. Point of order: Yes, the bar has been open longer than 10 years, but a decade ago current owner **MARK HATFIELD** bought the joint and helped turn it into a haven for underground rock.

The daylong celebration at the Monkey House was another of the year's live-music highlights, featuring a slew of favorite current acts. It also featured the return of one of the most explosive local bands from the past 30 years, **THE MURKEDROPS**. Well, mostly.

Unfortunately, **TMDF**-host main acts **GALLANT** blew out the audience in-on-the-way to the show from Matsa. Undeterred, TMDF played anyway, with bassist **PAUL MANA** filling in on lead vocals. And lemme tell ya, he absolutely crushed it. Those who only know Gallot from his mellow solo material might now realize what a dynamo the man was with TMDF. For **JAZZ** to stop in mid-set and pull all of the words but do so with such unbridled energy and fire was remarkable. Hats off!

Here's hoping 2007 has a few more surprises like that one in store for us. I think we're gonna need them. ☺

Listening In

A peek at what we're currently Rockin', Rollin', Right-In-Our-Jet-Eye, this week. Bonus: Stream songs on Spotify the weekly playlists have been created by artists featured in the issue sections.

- ALICE IN CHAINS**: *Horizontal* (**THE RECORD STORE**, **RIYL & Co.**)
- THE WHITE STRIPES**: *King Kong* (**Cherrytree**)
- VERONICA APPIE**: *It's A Show* (**Cherrytree**)
- CHRISTIAN: THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL**: *Dear Hunter*, *The Glass Mountains* (**Cherrytree**)

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WED. 21

Burlington

CT 0606 0020; Kevin Hughes
(country); 8 p.m., free.

MIDNIGHT SPLENDOR!!

Steve Head (jazz/classical);
the Acoustic Imperial Co.;
Kevin Hughes; free.JPS PUB: Karaoke 10 p.m., free.
LIGHT CLUB LAMP 100%: Latin
Salsa (international) Tues.,
free. Kevin Hughes and Matt
Wright (country) 9 p.m., free.

MANHATTAN PIZZA & BURR

Open Mic with Avery Lopez, 9
p.m., free.NECTAR'S: Vinyl Night with DJ
Mike (electronic); 9 p.m., free.
Rock Bottom Rock, Chicago
Juliana (rock), 9 p.m., free.RADIOS 0009: Tech Outpost (folk)
8 p.m., free. Rock Ties (folk)
10:30 p.m., free.RADIOS 0009 & DJ KarmenTT (folk)
9 p.m., free. DJ Secret Date 11
p.m., free.RADIOS 0009 & WHIRLWIND
ROOM: Heaven Kited, 7 p.m.,
free.SONGART: Ethan Snyder
Presents (country); 8 p.m., free.
Fatty Dog's Woodlands (folk) 10
p.m., free.

THE BOLD CONDOM CLUB:

Karaoke Open Mic, 7 p.m., free.
Big Green Grouse (stand-up) 8
p.m., free.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

BENSON BARDIN (bluegrass)
Benton: 8 p.m., \$12.50.
BENTON: 8 p.m., \$12.50.
8:30 p.m., \$12.50.BOOGIE HOUSE: Open Mic:
Defiant Choice, Pleasant Hill, 8:30
p.m., \$10. Show, \$10.

BUTTER/BOOMSPELLER

BUTTER BANDS & BOTTLES:
Cafe 300 (breakfast/lunch); 8
p.m., free.SWEET SPOT: To cheer
(international acoustic); 8:30 p.m.,
\$10. Kevin Hughes and Matt Wright
9 p.m., free.

WHAMMY BAR: Open Mic, 7

p.m., free.

ATTIC: 8 p.m., free.

RADIOS PLACE: Loungin' Around
(country) 7 p.m., free.

MIDDLEBURY AREA

CITY LIMITS: HIGHT CLUB
Karaoke 10 p.m., free.THREE BIRDS: 8 p.m., free.
LOUNGE 0009: Triple Negra,
10 p.m., free. Open Mic, 9 p.m., free.

MIDNIGHT SPLENDOR!!

PAKAWA (folk); Reverb, 7
p.m., free.

OUTSIDE EVENTISM!!

HORNPIPE: Open Mic with
Lester 10 p.m., free.

THE SONG OF FRANCINE

RADIOS 0009 & WHIRLWIND
ROOM: 8 p.m., free.

THU. 22 / THE DAN RYAN HOLLYDAY EXPRESS (JAZZ)



Little Drummer Boy

Whether or not pounding the skins in the soulful electro-pop head Malaka, Dan Ryan keeps things jazzy with his quintet, the Dan Ryan Express. This year's science, he unveils the **DAN RYAN HOLLYDAY EXPRESS** for a night of hot jazz and special winter tunes. Holiday through the performance, the DRE will become **THE DAN HOLLYDAY EXPRESS**. **SABRINA'S HAPPY HOLIDAY FESTIVE**, performing holiday favorites arranged by McNamee. Guests include Jeremy Sieker, Kevin Avery, John Whowell, Ted Croley, Jason Harvey, Joe Dardillas, Robbie Moore, and special guest vocalists Anthony Matz and Matt Wright. Get cozy with the Dan Ryan Holiday Express on Thursday, December 22, at Radio Kite in Burlington.

THU. 22

Burlington

SHINE: BLURRED RECESS

Atlantic, Pleasant, 8 p.m., free.

PIPER'S PUB: CHOCOLATE

100% (folk), 8 p.m., free.

JPS PUB: Karaoke 8 p.m., free.

LIGHT CLUB/LAMP 100%: Latin

Salsa (international) Tues., free.

RADIOS 0009: Triple Negra, 10 p.m., free.

WHAMMY BAR: Open Mic, 9 p.m., free.

NECTAR'S: Transcendence, 7 p.m.,

free. Danik the Hula, & Taylor

Reed Sommer (soul/soft rock), 9

Bentley Lounge: (J) Jeffrey
Gard, and Local Gods (jazz/rock)
10:30 p.m., free. Kevin Hughes and
Matt Wright (country).

RADIOS 0009: Triple Negra

(international) Tues., free. Danix

Hughes (international) Thurs., free.

Hornpipe (international) Thurs., free.

RADIOS 0009 & WHIRLWIND

ROOM: 8 p.m., free.

THE SONG OF FRANCINE

Reverb (country), 8 p.m., free.

RADIOS 0009 & WHIRLWIND

ROOM: 8 p.m., free.

RADIOS 0009 & WHIRLWIND

ROOM: 8 p.m., free.

Bentley Lounge: (J) Jeffrey
Gard, and Local Gods (jazz/rock), 10
p.m., free. Danix (soft rock), 10 p.m., free.

RADIOS 0009: Karaoke

Merry, Jose Imperial, 8 p.m., free.

Bentley Lounge: (J) Jeffrey
Gard, and Local Gods (jazz/rock), 10
p.m., free.

RADIOS 0009 & WHIRLWIND

ROOM: 8 p.m., free.

ON-TAP: RADIOS 0009: Danix
Hornpipe (country band), 7 p.m., free.

RADIOS 0009: CAFE A YAHNE: Jeff

Sakamoto Band (jazz), 7 p.m., free.

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Sakamoto Band (jazz), 7 p.m., free.

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RADIOS 0009: CAFE A YAHNE: Jeff

Sakamoto Band (jazz), 7 p.m., free.

RADIOS 0009: CAFE A YAHNE: Jeff

RADIOS 0009: Karaoke

RADIOS PLACE: Open Mic, 8

p.m., free.

RADIOS PLACE: Happy Hour

CITY LIGHTS NIGHT CLUB: Tues.,

Thursdays, 10 p.m., free.

TWO BROTHERS TUESDAY

(Steve E. (pop), 8 p.m., free).

RADIOS PLACE: Karaoke

RADIOS PLACE: Happy Hour

(Steve E. (pop), 8 p.m., free).

RADIOS PLACE: Karaoke

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REVIEW *this*

Bow Thayer, *The Source* and the Servant

BY MEL MULLEN ED MULLEN BOWMULLEN.COM

Bow Thayer is a serious artist from Vermont. Since he moved here, he's been a creative soul cultural force and has consistently channeled out impressive albums, both solo and with the Perfect Triumvirate. Thayer also founded the Twisted River Music Festival. In his spare time, he invented a new instrument, the Begon. Thayer's latest release, *The Source and the Servant*, is a tribute to two of his most distinctive influences: bluesman Dock Boggs and bluesman Mississippi Fred McDowell. (No surprise that Thayer has impeccable taste.)

The album opens with "Cassidy Blues," a Boggs lament over reclusive strange. It's a lovely, sparse track that sets up "Papa's Little Angel Child," a riddling McDowell blues monologue.



Once the drums get cooking here, the project achieves proper lilt and maintains a powerful spell. This isn't musical advice, but I'm pretty sure this album could my winter blues and Electron 656 hangover, too.

Thayer has been crafting quality albums for decades, and it shows. Experiments such as his 2013 album, *Eden*, have made him an increasingly confident producer. And a hundred miles reaches on *The Source and the Servant* alone. It's quite a balancing act.

to have a carefully honed product still sound like it was thrown together in an afternoon with some good friends.

The songs are well chosen, and the arrangements mostly keep things interesting. Since Thayer can command a room by himself, the accompaniment can be subtle. It can also rock out very hard. Fans of the Fat Possum Records approach to dirty blues will find a lot to like here. Longtime collaborator Jeff Berlin does magnificent work on percussions throughout. From steadily racket to continuous pulse, Berlin's creative approach is at its most. On the low end, bassist Alex Abraham is all about resonance, anchoring the song's funk just enough.

Some of the left-field choices hit the horizon, such as bringing in Mark Turner as a tenor-sax — an unlikely counterpoint that really works. Then there's the distinctive, spooky wail of Jason Cahn's bow-and-saw solo weaving through the mix. Benny

Gron's production work is strong, subtle stuff. For all its bumble roots, this is an ambitious album.

The Source and the Servant is a subtle project, for sure, but every song here very much belongs to Bow Thayer. Whatever mix of woodshed practice, crisscross deals with bigger deals and guided synthesizers comprising it takes to make those blues your own, Thayer passed that point many moons ago.

While Boggs and McDowell are long gone, this album is a testament to their living legacies. The music is devoutly respectful, feels timeless and sounds modern. Whatever "The Source" maybe, Thayer has a clear, open channel to it on his good days. May he keep breathing, lighting and making magic for decades to come.

The Source and the Servant by Bow Thayer is available at bowthayerband.com. Thayer plays on Wednesday, December 21 at 28, at the Stanley Penobscot in Hanover, NH.

AUSTIN ISLAND

Carraway, *The Bad Year*

BY MEL MULLEN ED MULLEN.COM

The latest promotional materials for Burlington band Carraway are loaded with nautical imagery. To wit, check out that fancy schooner on the cover of their first full-length album, *The Bad Year*. I smell a metaphor, and it's probably something like this: A sailing vessel is at the mercy of the seas on which it travels, only through discipline, skill and a bit of luck can a sailor hope to navigate the choppy waters. Such is life to once-twenty Carraway socialite, guitarist and primary songwriter George Mason comes close to explicitly using as much throughout the album's nine tracks.

The years between 20 and 29 are a good time for experimentation, and Carraway seems to be doing just that on *The Bad Year*. The hallmarks of



their 2014 self-titled EP are still there — high-voltage chords and lyrics that supply a self-destructive streak, but Carraway introduce some new styles and elements here, dipping their toes in the waters of country and classic rock pop.

Most of the album retains Carraway's signature sound, at least in part. "Last

Night" is the best of their down-the-line power-pop tunes. Its chorus is stuck with overdenied chords, strangled in various eighth notes that clang against continuously crashing cymbals. They also throw in some nice handclaps for punctuation. Mason's dandy-assured baritone is a pleasant early on, as he sings, "You're probably in bed with some other boy / I'm probably waiting for him / I'm probably alone / By myself again."

"Company Man" seems like it crosses between a nursery rhyme and a drinking song; it reveals the drudgery of young musicians who struggle to create art while working the same, thankless day job. Mason sings, "Laying out every piece of the plan / Everyone knows I'm a company man / But I was made for something better."

Carraway travel the furthest into uncharted territory on "Conrad." Its stamp-dig rhythms and haunted, jangly

guitar put the song squarely in country. Mason cooks himself into a nothing matter when he sings, "You gotta tie 'em up by their ankles / Tying 'em up from the wrists."

Other new elements are the heavy drum machine and retro-synthetic synths on "I've Come to Love." But the song's third act reminds us we're still listening to Carraway as a song of guitars and live drums correlate the electronic elements.

Carraway's experimentalism shouldn't be seen as a divergence or a need-to-course correction. Their stylistic differences enhance their power-pop foundation, as opposed to setting it aside. And who says they're even gonna take courses? They're young and, quite likely, still finding their sea legs.

The Bad Year by Carraway is available at www.carrawayband.com.

JORDAN ADAMS

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CircusFest • 32 and Never 32 • Witched • The Struts • Mykki Blanco
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SHOW: 7:30 PM
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music

DEC. 23-24, 2016

burr/monterey

CHARLES-OTS RABBIT AND BLURRED
CAFE, Burlington • 8:30 p.m. *live*
Bacon/Bugger Boys (Burlington)
8 p.m., free

CHARLES-OTS WORLD FAMOUS

SCOTT BRONSON (Rock City, 6 p.m.)

THE BLUE FOX AND THE RED FOX

Charles J. Brown (Rock City, 6 p.m.)

8 p.m., free

ESPRESSO-NUENO

ALEX OF THE (Montgomery) 7:30 p.m., *live*
Burlington Community Showcase
(Montgomery) 9:30 p.m., \$8

LA PINTURA INDIA

JON HOGAN (Gerry's, 5 p.m., *live*)
(see www.jonhogan.com) 7:30

p.m., \$15

POSITIVE ENERGY/INTERMISSION

WHITE HOT (with GLASS BEAN Accoustic
Guitar) 8 p.m., \$5

QUARTZ HIGHLIGHTS

HAPPY HOUR WITH MARK CARBONNEAU,
S. (Burlington, 8 p.m., *live*) 8 p.m., \$10

— (with Jameson, 8 p.m., *live*)

8 p.m., \$10

REDFIRE/INTERMISSION

REGGAE PLACE, The Rock
(Montgomery) 8 p.m., free

WHITE NAR

8:30 p.m., \$10. Advanced
holiday party featuring DJ

JAY ROSEN and JULIAN (DJ,

Reggae Place, 8 p.m., \$10)

8 p.m., \$10

THE MELTDOWN AREA

6:30 p.m. (with BART COOKING)
Annual Christmas Party with
Twinkie of Twinkie (party), 8:30 p.m.,

free

TWO BROTHERS TAHOE (U)

The Rock (Rock City, 8 p.m., free)

CHUMPLA IN

INTERMISSION/INTERMISSION

TRICERATOPS — AN AMERICAN
SATURDAYS, 8 p.m. (Rock
City), 9 p.m., free

INTERMISSION KINGDOM

INTERMISSION KINGDOM, *located* For
Second (Burlington) 8 p.m., \$10

INTERSTATE ENTERTAINMENT

INTERSTATE (Foxyblue Wine Bar),
8 p.m., free

INDIGO DOOR CONVERSATION

Mayay New Tunes & Trivia with
the YTH (Rock City, 8 p.m., free)

DRIVE MILLEY S

All Request
Night with DJ DrivE (Rock City), 10
p.m., free

THE DEERIN FINANCIAL

INTERMISSION, Luke Reichen
(Rock City, 8 p.m., free), 8 p.m.,

free

INTERMISSION

EAGLETON ANGEL AND HUMANO
CAFE, Southern Star (Rock City),
Jesse (Montgomery), 10:30 p.m., free

8 p.m., free

SAT.24

Burlington

JPF PUB, Karaoke (10 p.m., free)

KIDZ BAM (Jazz), 10 p.m., free



For up-to-the-minute news about the
local music scene, follow @LiveCulture and
@playalbany on Twitter or read the Live
Culture blog: www.albanylive.com/liveculture.



Free, 8 p.m. (Rock City), 10 p.m.,
free

burr/monterey

INTERMISSION KINGDOM

INTERMISSION KINGDOM, *located* For
Second (Burlington) 10 p.m., free

MANHATTAN PIZZA & PUB

Karaoke (Rock City), free

RED SICTURE

Montrose (Rock City), 9 p.m., free

GRASSHOPPER

Family Night (open
year-round), 7 p.m.-10 p.m., free

EVERTHREE COUNTY

BARKERS PUB, Open Mic,

9:30 p.m., free

MONKEY HOUSE

Kelly Burke (Rock City), 9 p.m., free

Mondays, 8 p.m., free

BUDDY/monterey

CHARLES-OTS WORLD FAMOUS

Revolution, 7 p.m., free

INTERMISSION

NOOGIE PLACE, Rock Nessore

(Rock City), 9 p.m., free

INTERMISSION

MONKEY THEREN, Jay Nash

(Rock City), 8 p.m., free

INTERMISSION

LIGHT CLUB (AMPED SHOP, Lamp

Shop Lit Club (open/moving), 9 p.m.,

free



NUGO JR & RADFISH: A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME (ROCK, REGGAE)

Wrong Way Ah, the '90s — the decade that successfully revived ska music, only to leave it abandoned after the trend became passé. The legendary Sublime are largely responsible for that resurgence. God, wouldn't it be great if a band devoted to making careers out of reliving its let Sublime's glory faded? We're in luck, because **RADFISH: A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME** seem like they'll never, ever let Sublime's sun-drenched dream die. Since their inception in 2001, they've become the most popular (and only) Sublime cover band of all time. Relive your glory days with Radfish: A Tribute to Sublime on Wednesday, December 26, at the Higher Ground Ballroom in South Burlington. \$20/18+ 8 p.m.

TUE, 12/26

Burlington

OLIVE JUICE (Rock, Goliath) featuring Michael and Jennifer Teddlie 3pm-10pm \$30

THE GATEKEEPER PIA TINA (Rock) 8pm Free

LIGHT-UP LAMP SHOW (Pop/Folk) Patients See You (comedy) 8pm, Free

MANHATTAN PIZZA & PUB (Rock/Outpost) 8pm-10:30 pm, Free

METATONE (Great Gatsby/Grand Central) 10pm-midnight \$35/25+ \$30+

RADIO REW (Newwave/Coldwave) 9pm \$10, 11pm, Free Monday Night Revue with Edie, George & Friends 10pm-11pm, \$10

NEED SAMBA (Karaoke with DJ Jay Kaze) 7pm, Free Pop/Rap/Salsa Party 10pm-11pm, \$10

SHOGUN (Blackout/Revival & Synthpop) 8pm-10pm, \$10, 10pm, Free

CHIETHENFELD'S (Country) 8pm, Free

BEARMEAT/IN MONTPELIER (Country/2nd World Famous Bluegrass Band) 8pm-10pm, \$10

LA PAZADA NEGRA (Salsa Latinx) with Dj Octavio, 6:30pm, \$10

SWEET MILITARY (Albert Morgan) (punk/screamo) 8pm, Free Open Mic, 9pm, 20th anniversary

STONEHENGE (Country) 8pm, Free

ABIGAIL PLACE (Celtic/Euro Indie/Latin/Mexican rock) 9pm-10pm, Free

MIDDLEBURY MORN (Two Brothers Tavern) (Country & Stage) Karaoke with Bands Entertainment, 8pm-11pm, Free

OUTSIDE VERMONT (Olive Ridley's) (New Age/T

Latinx) with Dj Octavio, 6:30pm, \$10

TUE, 12/26

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Beyond the Surface

Samantha Handler on making art and living with cancer

BY KOTIE JICKLING



On the second day of 2005, Shelburne artist Samantha Handler began a sort of personal artistic renaissance.

She didn't recognize it as such at the time, Handler says. January 2 was the day her husband left her and her "whole life changed out on the ground." She was forced to close the Open Arms Cafe, the Shelburne eatery the couple had been operating, and raise her two teenage daughters alone. Later that year, she was

diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer, which had metastasized after five years in remission.

And that emotional desolation, Handler returned to her art. "Painting was there waiting for me," she says. "It was in [me], waiting to come out."

Handler, 41, now paints almost daily in the sunlit corner she rents in the Box Art Studio in Burlington. She creates primarily abstract work, pieces filled with her own emotions and suggestive of

natural scenery. She is also a painter and a photographer; on the side, Handler holds down her "dinner job" at Shelburne's O Bread Bakery, spending early mornings mixing flour and making dough.

A New York native, Handler studied at the Parsons School of Design in Manhattan, and in 2000 received her MFA from Vermont College [now Vermont College of Fine Arts]. She took a decade-long break to raise her daughters and run the cafe. Now, she's finding her niche as

an artist, experimenting with form, shape and medium as an attempt to "explore what is there beyond what I can see."

Handler creates work of all sizes — collections of tiny square paintings, photos, rings and pins, long horizontal canvases. Sometimes, she hangs a black canvas on her wall at home for days before she decides how best to fill it.

Then, she takes a brush to it in a flurry of activity, adding acrylic paint in soft strokes, scowling layers of paint

Photo by Sammonee Handler



MY PAINTINGS AREN'T INTENTIONALLY ABSTRACT; I'M TRYING TO FIND SOMETHING THAT IS STILL UNKNOWN TO ME.

SAMANTHA HANLDER

It took everything changing for me, losing my marriage, losing my financial security, becoming a single mother, no kind of compromise there. I distilled it down even more. What do I absolutely need to do right now? And that's what I need to do. I know it.

SD What led you to abstract art?

SHE I don't think I could accomplish what I'm doing by trying to paint what already comes in the world. That wouldn't fulfill me. For me, it's more about color and form and depth, all these technical components of the painting, which create very clear and sudden feelings.

When I'm standing in the lake, walking my dog or drinking coffee, I want to see beyond the cup, the barn or the stones in the water to what I can't see but I know is there. My paintings aren't intentionally abstract; I'm trying to find something that is still unknown to me.

SD Do you ever worry or think about the possible disconnection between artist and audience?

SHE All the time. To be honest, I haven't figured it out. The closest I've come to figuring out our disconnect is when people respond and take home a cup, something they can hold in their hands and use in their life.

I'm not a writer, but it's almost like a poem would be in the world. It's a story that means something, and you don't always know quite what it means, and sometimes you have to live around it for a long time.

SD You create in a variety of media. How do they complement each other to convey a message?

SHE I'm not limited to medium and size and shape. I really try to stay open to the ways I can express the questions I have. It's not like I have something to say and I try to say it. I try to get to the place where [my work] reflects back to me where I am in the world.

The photography helps me understand what I'm drawn to. And then the poetry is a great helper to help the form in my two-dimensional painting. I love curves, and that comes out when I paint.

I'm really changing and evolving faster [as an artist] than I might if I were just painting.

SD How do you know when a piece is complete?

SHE For trying to express where I connect to the place I am. When it feels like it's serene, somehow, I'm done.

The world is so crazy—cellphones and politics, and how am I going to pay the rent, and everything going on in the world—to listen to just one voice takes a long time. I'llauer marks that are like, what are you doing? I'll get down to oh, there I am. It's an intuition.

SD Have you always thought of yourself as an artist?

SHE Yes, definitely—well, maybe not always. I spent a year in Israel and I had this friend, Dina. She was like, "You're an artist, you need to go to art school." Like literally sent me to art school.

Rock then, while I was 20, I decided someone as tall as me that I was an artist. And now, I do not. Now, I know—I know that this is what I'm meant to do.

Contact Austin@sevensdays.com

INFO

Learn more at samanthahandlerstudio.com

ART EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5 **OPENING** *discreet*—an exhibition of small-scale artworks by 12 artists. 6-9 p.m. The Sculpture Co., 1010 15th St. NW. (202) 347-1200. discreetdc.com

ONGOING SHOWS

Art in the Margins

CAROLINE HORN—Photographs from University of Wisconsin studio assignments. Through December 21. Info: (608) 262-6207. artsmadison.com and carolinehorn.com.

CHRISTY MITCHELL, *W.L.*—A mixed media installation featuring a large-scale vinyl sculpture and short video to present the artist's own state of being in the digital age. francemedia.com. Through Dec. 13. (415) 255-1200. christymitchell.com

SHANNON LEE—Abstract paintings combining the pastel palette with metallics. Through Dec. 13. (202) 347-5210. shannonlee.com

COLLECTIVE MURPHYS—A group exhibition of photographs and painted storefronts that explore the contrast between objective and subjective forms of analysis in art spaces. Through January 10. Info: (202) 965-0333. ballyproject.org

DON RISBORG—*Small World Photography*, large-scale landscapes in cameras. Through December 21. Info: (202) 293-1010. donrisborg.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN CAPSTONE SHOW

Seven graphic design students will display a diverse group of projects representing the culmination of their concentrations. Through December 20. Info: intermediaartschicago.org and [Chicago.edu/gallery](http://chicago.edu/gallery).

MICHAEL RABNER—A collection of artworks and limited-edition gifts for the holiday season. Through January 4. Info: (202) 737-7272. [One Arts Center](http://oneartscenter.org) in Bethesda.

KEVIN MCGOWAN—An exhibition of highly detailed works created to convey the spectrum of human emotion. Through January 31. Info: (562) 698-3696. [Specter Arts](http://specterarts.org) Center in Redondo Beach.

LINDA CUMMINGS—The stage is a wild nothingness, and the light is a bright white. Through December 20. Info: (202) 544-5264. [McCarter](http://mccarter.org) Theater in Princeton.

MARK HARRIS—A group exhibition of works by international collective artists Jordan Canfield, Kelly-Chamberlain, Callie Clark, Nelly Cummings, Bill Dugger, Kaitlin Freeman, Michael Ghezzo, Samia Bouzid, and others. Through December 20. Info: (202) 544-5264. [MCCARTER](http://mccarter.org) Theater in Princeton.

TY LANA & LUCAS PATRICKSON AT JRC—A two-day exhibition of the visual artists' collaborative work, including film and photo-based performances, presented by the Visual Arts Foundation, curated by Shira Bernstein Farnie. Tyd-Burright City Arts Center. Exhibiting artists include Sean Cline, Cameron Davis, Al Johnson, Karen Kuehne, Michael Joseph, John Koenig, Kristin Koenig, and others. Check www.tydn.com and www.jrcarts.org.

JOY OF BARBERSHOP (WOMEN'S GROUP)—New and smaller works by Ugi Hatchets and Kara New West, celebrating their journey. Through January 10. Info: (202) 726-4264. [WCA](http://wca.org) in Washington.

JOY OF BARBERSHOP (MEN'S GROUP)—New and smaller works by Ugi Hatchets and Kara New West, celebrating their journey. Through January 10. Info: (202) 726-4264. [WCA](http://wca.org) in Washington.



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NEW YEAR'S EVE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2-7PM
DOWNTOWN MONTPELIER

See full NYE Events schedule at: WWW.MONTPELIERALIVE.COM

BOSTON SHOWS: 10/15-1/13

Trace the evolution of darkness from the illustrations of light. Through December 31. Intra-Hyde Showroom, 211 Intra-Hyde Street, Brookline Village, Boston.

SALLY LUNDBERG: "Virtuous Negligence," an exhibition of paintings and drawings created by the artist's studio for the Arts. Through April 1. Info: 352-4200 ext. 4. Tanglewood Hall, Tanglewood, Lenox.

SARAH WILKINSON: A group exhibition of prints in a variety of media—ranging from 10 masters in color to 100 prints. Friday January 6, 5-6 p.m. Info: 781-229-2288. 270 Main St., Danvers.

SEASIDE HOLIDAY SHOP: Festive marketplace featuring faculty teacher studios, including the holiday gift shop. Through December 24. Info: 655-8200. SCARAB Art Center, Rockport.

STUDIO 5500: "Tours of the Family Room," a portfolio of Yermakov's work. Studio 5500, 200 Brattle St., Cambridge. Through January 15. Info: 661-2200. Tuesdays through Fridays.

THE STUDIO: Paintings by the local artist. Through December 24. Info: 781-229-2288. 270 Main St., Danvers.

WENHAM PHOTO GROUP: "Portrait," a group exhibition organized featuring the various facets of witness within the lens. December 10 through photographs. Through December 31. Info: 434-5303. Historical Society, Wenham.

chelmsford 01285

THE STUDIO: Selections of works incorporating the theme. Through December 31. Info: 655-8200. Jenkins Town Hall.

MARSHAL BRONZI: Landscapes, portraits and other things "things" required is the artist's addition for the visual world. Through December 31. Info: 971-8200. Atelier A, Brattle Building, Cambridge.

WENHAM: A juried exhibition of art site photography, selectively featuring artist Diane Sutton. Through Jan 1. Info: 772-2888. Wenham Center, Wenham, Essex County.

PETER PETERSON: Skyscrapers imagined by underground surreal elements of urban sprawl. Through Dec 10. Info: 971-8200. Atelier A, Brattle Building, Cambridge.

SAMANTHA FRAZIER: More than 30 artworks that reflect the artist's experience of being. By the Melting Pot artists who stage 30 shows. Through Jan 15. Info: 945-0551. North Woods in Shelswell.

CALL TO ARTISTS

4TH ANNUAL OPEN PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: Boston Vermont.

Photographers are invited to submit and/or view nearly 100 images in every genre. Through January 10. Info: 800-222-1000. 100 Franklin St., Suite 300, Boston. Info: 617-426-2200. www.bostonvermont.com.

ART OF WINTER: Miniature Art.

Works and 5x5 ACEs. Jewelry, post cards for art, or collages of "winter" art that focus on themes of winter. All mediums are welcome to work that represents winter as a language made apparent in the season there is a psychological connection to conceptual!

SUSAN RABES BRAT AND JOHN REVELL: "The Natural History of the Human Body," a group exhibition and readings by the Visual Artists' Studio. Through December 31. Info: 352-3810. Atlands Interface & Publishing, Woburn.

THREE BY THREE: A group exhibition focused on small and often quirky art. Rotating theme: three by three of each of four to look. Through Jan 15. Info: 781-229-2288. Furniture Society, Grafton St., Boston.

BRYNNE ANN CONNELL: Prints.

CELESTE: Annual print exhibition featuring a wide variety of art around a central holiday motif. Through December 31. Info: 479-3663. Studio Place Amherstburg.

PAINT AND ENTERTAINMENT: An exhibition featuring 100+ hand-painted murals. Through December 31. Info: 655-8200. The Painter's Choice, Cambridge.

THE STUDIO: SMALL WORKS, CENTERPIECE IN NEVER ENDING: An exhibition featuring the voices of people and environmental issues in the studio. Issues focus on regions for regional agriculture, progressive politics to health care reform, alternative energy, environmental advocacy. Through December 31. Info: 655-0250. Wenham Heritage Galleries, Wenham.

HOLIDAY IN THE STUDIO: Acrylics, mixed media, light painting, fiber art, sculpture, prints, drawings, and gifts by Phoenix Creative Arts Center.

TRISH BUDDE: Prints, Ceramic, Glass, Jewels, p. Resina Lettieri, Phillip Robinson, John Smith and Linda Strelak. Through December 31. Info: 971-8200. Trish Budde, Cambridge.

WENHAM: THINGS THROWN AWAY: An exhibition of objects that have been discarded and lost to the visual arts. Through January 10. Info: 655-0250. T.W. Wood Gallery, Wenham.

IN PRAISE OF WATER: Garden/Outdoor artists approach the theme of water from many angles.

Conceptual, abstract, political, and contemplative. Richard Jankiewicz, Susan Kunkle, Kyle Tegtmeyer, Gail Galloher, Tom Howell, Jennifer James, Phillip Robertson, Cyndie Koenig, Chasen Sader, Scott Schaeffer, and William Westmoreland. Through April 1. Info: 352-3810. Atlands Interface & Publishing, Woburn.

MEMPHIS ART SHOW: An eclectic group exhibition featuring art of art studio masters, urban driving, community-oriented fine artists, and a Homelessophilia of resources, games and art. Curated by Amanda Marzouk and Elspeth McElroy. Through December 31. Info: 655-0250. Hotel Bay Art Center, Wenham.

HELEN MAYER: Ideas of life, an exhibition of painterly scenes, mostly capturing by hand. Through Jan 15. Info: 855-0250. Gallery at River Mills in Wenham.

WENHAM: "Incorporated Botanical Art" is the fourth annual exhibition. Through December 31. Info: 352-0810. Series Herbarium, Amherst College, Montpelier.

metropolit. A collection of artwork will be produced by Worcester Worcester Art Guide 3. Supply complete form, basic info, and a short bio. Through December 31. Info: 971-8200. Art of exhibit: "The 3... Atlands Interface & Publishing, Woburn.

THE DAILY PLANE: Looking for art that fits its daily works for two month-long shows. Send samples of work with dimensions and email to woburn@atlands.com. Curators: Richard Jankiewicz, Linda P. Hirsch, Barbara Miller, and Michael S. Quisenberry. Woburn, MA. Info: 479-3663.

THE FOLLOWING THE RULES / BREAKING THE RULES: Selling local art that fits its daily works for two month-long shows. Send samples of work with dimensions and email to woburn@atlands.com. Curators: Richard Jankiewicz, Linda P. Hirsch, Barbara Miller, and Michael S. Quisenberry. Woburn, MA. Info: 479-3663.

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NATIVE BIRDS: "Birds" duvet and pillow panel, quilted and appliquéd, and pillows. Through December 27. Info: 655-5250. Twilight Hollow, Lexington.

MARY ADAMS/AN: "Whalebone Art," an exhibition of whalebone, seal skins, walrus and sea otter skins. Through Dec 20. Info: 971-8202. Silverman's Billing & Mortgagors.

MITA RANGHINI: "Vernon: Structures," installations and drawings. Through December 21. Info: 655-9000. Latitude Center for Intermedia.

PAUL LIQUID: "Red Valentine" featuring 100 drawings and 100 prints. Through January 15. Info: 655-8200. Studio Place Amherstburg.

VALLEY FOLK: 100 YEARS OF THE VALLEY FOLK: An exhibition of paintings by residents of North Andover, North Reading and Northway. Through December 31. Info: 655-0250. The Painter's Choice, North Andover.

WHITEFIELD: "Whitefield: 100 Years of Art," an exhibition featuring the talents of 100 local artists. Info: 655-8200. Whitefield Center for the Arts, Whitefield.

WILDFLOWERS: An exhibition featuring the latest works of 100 local artists. Through January 15. Info: 655-0250. The Friend in Lexington.

<http://tiny.cc/mey43w>

ERIC BROWN & MARION JAMES: "Two voices of memory," entrepreneurs offer local landscape through December 21. Info: 212-203-1818. Brown Mountain Art & Gallery, Tiverton.

KENNAH: "Re: Loss," an exhibition of works by the three members of the Kenna family. Through January 15. Info: 655-0250. Painter's House, Wenham.

MEMPHIS ART SHOW: An eclectic group exhibition featuring art of art studio masters, urban driving, community-oriented fine artists, and a Homelessophilia of resources, games and art. Curated by Amanda Marzouk and Elspeth McElroy. Through December 31. Info: 655-0250. Hotel Bay Art Center, Wenham.

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"Whalebone Through Jesus" T.W. Wood 352-0810. Wood's Cemetery & Fence Company in Lexington.

WINDHAM: "Artworks" by local artists in variety of media. Through December 21. Info: 655-8200. The Judge, Windham, Windham.

WILTON DESIGN: A collection of whimsical designs by the artist engagement with quirkiness and a variety of individuals, including historical and iconic figures, pop culture and social media. Through December 21. Info: 406-855-2300. Wilton Contemporary in Westfield.

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WOBURN ART IN SEVEN DAYS:

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DEC. 23 Josh Panda



DEC. 30 Will Evans



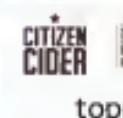
JAN. 6 Frank Viele
JAN. 7 Chad Hollister



JAN. 13,14 Rich Ortiz



JAN. 20 Danielle Miraglia
JAN. 21 Chad Hollister



JAN. 27,28 Auburn Mode

5:00 - 8:00 PM

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ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY.COM

EDWARD FETTER "Interior," a patinated copper square that at first glance appears to be metal is actually a painting. Through January 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Edward Fetters' Surrealist Gallery in Atlanta.

THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASIDE, MY FAVORITE

THURSTON Artist glass and ceramics often weird, including framed original art, pottery, prints, jewelry, wood, clay, mixed media and glass, ceramics handmade in studios. Through January 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thurston Artists Studio.

support yourself

WENDY LEE RIVKIN STONE An interactive mural and hand-dyeing of experience that interrogates all theory disease. Through January 31. [WENDYLIVKIN.COM](http://wendylivkin.com)

MUSIC: THE SCIENCE OF PHYSICAL INSTRUMENTS

An exhibition that explores the science behind making diverse instruments. Through January 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 2000 Museum of Science and Industry.

GARRET ARTISTS The go-long exhibition includes artist Rachel Kuhn, documents from They Petals, polymer clay jewelry Wendy Jackson-Jeffrey, and woodworker Taylor Wimbush. Through December 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Collection — The Art of Craft in Wisconsin.

BEN RIBAIS "Obtuse," an exhibition of the Sharon artist's latest work, including drawings, monotypes, book arts, and paintings. Through February 15. See website for details. [BENRIBAIS.COM](http://benribais.com)

SETH HARPER GOODWIN "Imperialist's Toolkit." Until 1995, a collection of photographs documenting the working days of the former USSR. Through January 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Jewish Public Library.

TWO RIVERS HOLIDAY PRINT SHOW Annual group exhibition featuring prints by local artists that demonstrate a variety of printmaking techniques. Prints related to nature prints. Through December 31, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Two Rivers Printmaking Studio in Wausau River Junction.

TWO RIVERS PRINTMAKING Hand-pulled prints by local artists that explore ambition and achievement, and courage and passion of March 2012. Until 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Through December 31, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Two Rivers Center for the Arts in Wausau River Junction.

more shows at ew.com/go/arts

THOMAS MESSIER An installation reflecting upon the fading photo and life it contains, from telescopes to magic tricks, able to detect mystery through a variety of mythic superstition. Through January 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Museum of Everything in London.

WHAT'S THAT? A FAMILY MEETING IN ACTION? An exhibition of contemporary photography by New England-based artist. Family histories shown alongside childhood photographs and calendar items from the 1950s and 1960s, presented anonymously. Through January 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. MAAC Center for the Arts in Andover, Mass.

WILLIAM GILBERT An exhibition of works including oil paintings, prints, T-shirts, paper and more. Through February 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Patchwork Art Center in St. Johnsbury, Vt.

WILLYA VISION: FROM DREAM TO DRAWING A traveling exhibition that features traditional Indian art featuring 100+ original artworks, prints, T-shirts, paper and more. Through June 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Franklin Museum of History and Culture in Franklin, Tenn.

BRUNELLO DI MARE: THE BEACH Until 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Large-scale fashion show featuring a collection of men's swimwear, shirts, trousers, shorts and accessories. Through June 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Franklin Museum of History and Culture in Franklin, Tenn.



Mickey Myers

Cross-circled by Kelly Holt, "One of a Kind" at the Gallery at River Arts in Manchester is a solo exhibition of painterly portraits by the Johnson artist. Employing a range of palettes, Myers' compositions evoke landscapes of varying temperaments. Myriad-modulated with the legendary Los Angeles artist and Catholic nun Corita Kent and has lived in Vermont since 1991. In 2006, she became executive director of the Bayley Memorial Gallery at Jeffersonville. Through January 2, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. [RiverArts.org](http://riverarts.org).

manchester/burlington

WILHELMINA SAWYER After years of painting and photographing her landscape, Through January 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Lucy Wimke Creative, 200 Main St., Manchester. [LucyWimkeCreative.com](http://lucywimkecreative.com)

rmcdonald/pvt/reynolds
MARKUS GARNER "Smoking as a Business." Installation and paintings with oil on metal. Through January 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Lucy Wimke Creative, 200 Main St., Manchester. [LucyWimkeCreative.com](http://lucywimkecreative.com)

paper. Through January 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. White Box gallery at 101 Franklin St., Burlington.

FREDERICSON An exhibition of prints by the late Billy Fredericson and Daniel Fredericson, Nov. until Lucy Wimke Creative. [LucyWimkeCreative.com](http://lucywimkecreative.com)

MICHAEL HARNETT An annual event featuring a wide array of fine artists and artisans. Through December 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Chittenden Center for the Arts in Randolph.

LORIS E. SHAP A retrospective exhibition of the artist's work, including a film of his life and the late 1960s-1970s period. Through February 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Appalachian Mountain Library in South Royalton.

montpelier/montgomery

WANDA'S FINE FURNISHINGS An annual exhibition of fine furniture. Through January 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wanda's Fine Furnishings, 100 Franklin St., Montpelier.

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OUTDOOR VERNISSAGE: GARDENS IN FIVE

LAURENT GILLOT "Revolutions" featuring works from the early 1980s. His oil-paint-and-inks series depicts the former Teller and the late James Schmitz. The show explores the monochromatic hues to include portraiture, abstraction and didactic art. Through Jan. 21. Info: 802.862.1964. From: The Collected Editions, Falls, N.Y.

TOMMY RODA: THE SCULPTURAL WORK OF LAWRENCE J. NAWROTZKI Reciprocal works for the late sculptor. Through Dec. 15. **ANNE MURRAY: EDITIONS AND GALL** Artworks available for sale in a variety of media including an acoustic guitar and drawings. Through Jan. 21. Info: 802.449.3717. Art Gallery and Art Center in Lebanon, N.H.



John Dempsey The Seattle artist's first Vermont solo show presents a series of paintings addressing the void space between chaos and order. In them, he has moved away from his previous technique of using a dropper to let paint flow freely; the newer works evidence the return of the artist's hand through layering and sandpapering the surfaces. Fluid geometric grids provide an underlying structure and evoke sacred geometry, while smudged pigment marks point to randomness and natural variation. "The work came out of my reading on quantum physics," Dempsey writes. "Kind of dry in itself—but mystery and energy and connection are the themes I worked with." Handy? See our hands? So why... Through January 21 at Wilcox Contemporary in Westfield. Pictured: "Spiral" (2012).

SHARON ENGLEBRECHT An exhibition of works by the local visual artist. Through December 31. Info: 802.656.0760. From: Community Hatchet in Lamoille, Vt.

MONTREAL BIENNALE: THE SAME BIENNALE? Works by 50 contemporary artists from 13 countries. Art building specially commissioned pieces by Sylvie Bérubé, Sophie Hébert, Sébastien Hamel, Andréanne Martel and others. Through Jan. 26. Info: 514.285.3700. Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. 855-853-2000.

THE PHOTOGRAPH An exhibition featuring 70 works by 30 contemporary women photographers, including Nan Goldin, Camerine Ogle, Kim Smith and Marrie Hutter. Through Feb. 16. Info: 514.285-2000. Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. 855-853-2000.

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movies

Lion ★★★★☆

Only the most sheltered growth could withstand this Christ- mas release and just beowell. Based on actual events, *Lion* chronicles the odyssey of Australian law- naman Saroo Brierley, who wakes up in da. It's an affecting meditation on identity, home, family and how we're formed. There will be tears.

The feature debut from director Garth Davis, the movie is divided into two chapters. The first takes place in 1956 in the sun-parched village of Digha, India. There the young Saroo is played by an unassimilable first-time performer named Sunny Pawar. He's a thin, year-old boy (Briarley, himself, was tall, natural and infinite-murk).

Saroo lives in euphoria with his mother (Priyanka Bose), younger sister, Shabita (Sohaila Solhi), and older brother, Gopal (Abhishek Bachchan). The family is the poorest of the poor. His mother begs work for a living. The boys help and beg, squatting at the census. In an early scene, the two giddily cling to a moving train, cracking and they can trade for milk in the corner market. Barely 8, Saroo is eager in peace he can do anything. Gopal.

This desire leads to the defining event in his life. When Gopal tells Saroo he'll be

away for a week working in the fields, Saroo pleads to come along. It's night by the time they reach the train station, and the younger boy is asleep. Gopal has no choice but to bravely leave him, lying on a bench. "I'll be back," he says with a smile. "Don't go anywhere."

When Saroo awakes, he's alone on the platform and instinctively seeks shelter in the nearest train. He looks himself in the de-commissioned passenger coach, and the next thing he knows, it's hurtling across the country. There's nobody to hear him cry for help.

When the train stops, the boy is 1,000 miles from home on the sun-scorched streets of Calcutta, and unable to communicate. He speaks Hindi. The names swimming about his speech bubble. For months he wanders on parched scrubs and, more than once, he barely slips through the fingers of traffickers. Between camerasographer Long Pather (Guru Dutt Thirti) effectively explores the dread and savagery abounding the dusty, dark under-world that Saroo inhabits.

This India is the opposite of the happy, colorful one depicted in the *Air India* Marigold Hotel film. As he learns about it at first, when the story fast-forwards to 2013, Pather morphs into those other than Dev Patel, who starred in those moments. The



BHOJPUR Hotel does some of that work to date in the rate of an unoccupied passenger trying to find his way home.

actor does some of his most magnetic work as the adult Saroo, who's been adopted by John and Sue Brierley (David Wenham and Nicole Kidman), an unashamedly benevolent Australian couple. They give him a life beyond his sordid dreams. But does he attend college and study hotel management? Does he marry? No, he says. What would he loss likely?

Here's what: Star of prestige oddballs comes with grit, and he eventually feels compelled to reconnect with his roots. He spends six years trying to avenge the route that brought him to Calcutta using Google Earth. His product placement is at least poignant. The movie has its angles, but, in a

promo for the progress, which Brierley made in 2013 — you can see it on YouTube.

His story gets some magical by the nose in the final act. He even gets to date a character played by Rooney Mara. It would all be over the top if it weren't so good.

Luke Brierley's screenplay is skillfully adapted from Brierley's 2008 international best seller *A Long Way Home*, so no spoiler alert is necessary. Brierley does finally find his way back to that village, and what happens is guaranteed to get you when you live. It's a beautiful moment. Bring tissues.

EICK KISCHAK

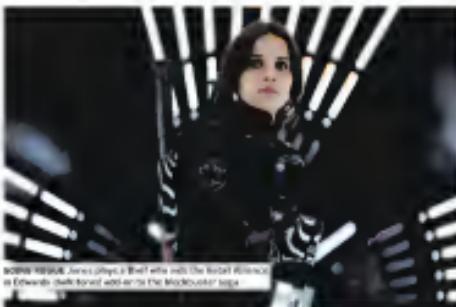
Rogue One: A Star Wars Story ★★★★

Fast things fast. No *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* is not the sequel to last year's *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Expect that next December her And yes, this second-shelf adventure, set between episodes III and IV of the saga, is a way to ink major profits from the cash cow franchise. But director Gareth Edwards (Godzilla) and screenwriters Chris Weitz and Tony Gilroy do so pretty handsomely. They tell a war story that works just fine on its own terms, even if it's obviously darker than some recent star epic from the Star Wars universe.

To start with, *Rogue One* fits a notable cliché in the history of the series open: that set the world on fire back in 1977. Most of us remember the climactic scene where Luke Skywalker pilots his X-wing fighter to target a key weapon in the Empire's proudest weapon, the Death Star. But here's the catch: All those rebels got those handy blasters?

Well, it all starts with the Death Star being designed by Hanford Lester (as in, I mean) Grant Enos, a character played by Mads Mikkelsen, who played Lester on TV. Now he's a decent fellow turned into a nasty guy who expects his enemies with a solid fist. And there's a whole bunch of Imperialists (Kris Almond) out to spread the word.

Mastermind: Rebel intelligence officer Cassian Andor (Diego Luna) has been assigned tech preventing the weapons completion by finding and taking out its creator, using the



BORN REBEL Jyn Erso (Felicity Jones) who gets the Death Star plans in Edwards' sleek, bold and action-filled *Star Wars* saga.

not-long-lon daughter, Jyn (Felicity Jones), as her. But Jyn, a career criminal, has her own ideas.

All those characters (and more) are soft-wound introduced as steaming, early scenes, which match both Star Wars and *Citizen Kane* in the way of rhythmic, propulsive editing. The story progresses like a film and mystery. The story concludes when they team up with a bland, wannabe sort of Jedi (Daisy Ridley), his necessary bodyguard (Riz Ahmed) and a

delightfully passive-aggressive droid (K2SO). Together they bring crew must to escape an Imperial stronghold to steal the Death Star plans — a resource measure for desperation.

Since *Rogue One* slides neatly into the present point of the original Star Wars trilogy, it doesn't feel jarringly out of place. *The Force Awakens* did. *Rogue One* proves that "remastered" of director Alan Pakula's 1983 *Greedy* (with George Lucas justified by

taxes). The film offers the satisfaction of seeing events leading up to the iconic moment, while giving newer stage to the sort of non-iconic characters who would normally be disposable extras.

If only those characters had more developed, even a bit more down-to-earth personalities. Given the screen time the film devotes to Jyn's backstory, her callousness is frustrating. As the story begins, driven from action set piece to action set piece, the reason for her crucial change of heart get lost in the shuffle, while Cassian has exactly one driving speech to explain his motivations. Ahmed, who was in *Wishful* (*Nightcrawler*), has even less to do. They're a consummate cast, but only the dead-with-a-lade separates us from being much of a personality — and perhaps all the live lines.

This character fitness matters less as the film moves toward an surprisingly poignant conclusion, which shows how laborious debt news are when they become the ground and high-in-the-sky action. That action is gritty — probably too much so for small children. Much of it is performed by big players, going as a war movie's sense of the scope of life has a pursuit of a greater goal. *Rogue One* reminds us that not every body who fights and puns a heroic drama and a moral crusade — not a bad message for a movie on blockbuster.

MARGOT HARSHMAN

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POST TRUTH WORLD



BY TOM TOMORROW

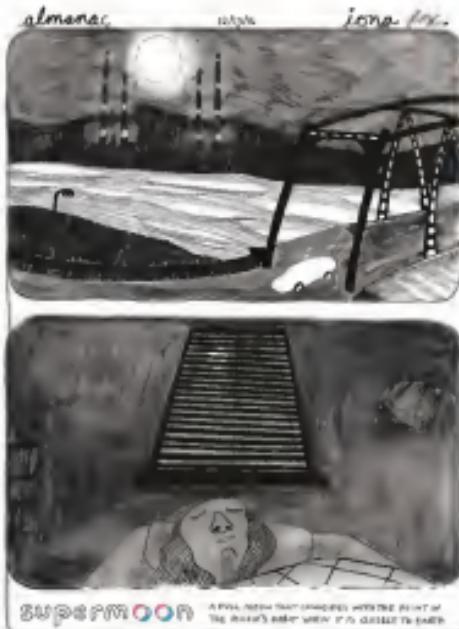


EDIE FERRETTI



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M. WESTON



Capricorn

[Dec. 22-Jan. 19]

Capricorn writer Edgar Allan Poe has been an important cultural influence. His work appears on stamp "masterlist" issue [1]. Renaissance American literature. But during the time he was alive, his best-selling book inspired his famous poem "The Raven," our last short story "The Gold-Bug," nor learned "The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym" [Masterlist]. Rather, it was "The Cask of Amontillado," a book about incident sheets, which he didn't actually write, but merely translated and edited. If I'm reading the last single issue correctly, 2017 will bring someone to help name the year first or last edition. Poe's 170,000-word correspondence or anyone who's had books will be even and appreciated better than ever before.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) National Public Radio's Scott Simon is an experienced jazz parent and songwriter. Recently, he's been writing songs and music reviews, as well as dancing and collaborating with a range of great musicians. Simon asked Eva if he had any foundations — "parental ambitions" that people discount as being too personal. Simon said yes. He'd really like to compose and sing hip-hop rhymes. But his foundations just won't go along with him when he tries that stuff. I hope that Simon, when an Aries, will rock that harmonica and take heart from what I'm about to predict: In 2017 you may still get a "No!" from people who have previously said "Yes!" to your grand ambitions.

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TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Humans have always had less fun than their less materialistic Chinese ancestors were enjoying as far back as the second century BC. And yet it wasn't until the fifth century that someone dreamt up the idea of having fun leaves in a notebook, driving bags to be left neatly lined. I foresee you either continuing or starting a new profitable business in 2017. Texas Longhorns Institutions or carbons will undergo simple but dramatic transformations that streamline your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) "When you do what counts and not what you had the occasion of doing," said Pablo Picasso. If I had to choose a single piece of advice to issue as your steady Eason in 2017, it might be that quote. If you agree, I invite you to re-enact the experiment. On the first day of each month, take a piece of paper and write down three key priorities you're working to pursue! And a brief analysis of how well you have lived up to those priorities in the previous four weeks. Then describe in strong language how you plan to better fulfill all those priorities in the coming four weeks.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) During the campaign for U.S. president in 2008, Democratic candidate William Jennings Bryan traveled 16,000 miles as he made speeches all over the country. But the Republican candidate, William McKinley, kept his campaign centered around town. He urged people to meet him if they wanted to hear what he had to say. The strategy worked. The speeches he delivered from the front porch of his house drew 750,000 listeners and played an important role in his election. I recommend a comparable approach for you in the coming months. Consider making your attractions open to your wider interested parties to come see you and deal with you on your home turf.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) "Poetry is a way of knowing that most poetry tells us, what we already know," writes poet Charles Simic. I would say her something about art, art, theater, film, music and fiction. Too often it presents well-edited repetitions of ideas

we have heard before. As my astrologist opinion, Leo, 2017 will be a time when you'll stand tall against that limitation. You will thrive by searching for sources that provide you with novel information and unique understandings. Simic says, "The place I want to go to write is impossible, a stone that floats." I say, "Be the float! Air stories that float."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) The Finance magnet says: Report that since we want to report \$10 million in bills, or she would have to use eight briefcases. Today, after publishing your astrological answers for 2017, I've determined that you want more than a need for that many. If you find yourself in a situation where you must carry bundles of money from one place to another one, you'll always be sufficient. But I also want to note that a sizable stash of cash can fit into a single software. And it's not out of the question that such a scenario could transpire for you in the coming months. In fact, I foresee a better chance for you to get richer quicker than you ever have in years.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) For a bold eagle in flight, feathers are crucial in maintaining balance. If it inadvertently loses a feather on one wing, it will purposefully shed a comparable feather on the other wing. According to my analysis of the astrological calendar, this strategy has metaphorical meaning for your life in 2017. Do you need to work on your emotional grace and poise? Would you like to expand and diversify your nest, with new or referenced wealth from the eagle's instinctual wealth?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) In August 2016, a group of tourists visited the Bhutan valley near Thimphu. After a while, they realized that a fellow traveler was missing. Guides organized a search party which worked well into the night trying to track down the lost woman. At 3 a.m., one of the searchers suddenly realized that she herself was the missing person. Everyone was looking for "The disappearance had occurred many hours earlier, because the hill sloped steeply to change her clothes, and no one imagined

her in her new park. This is a good hunting story for you to meditate on in 2017. Scarcely I'll love to see you change so much that you're almost unrecognizable. And let love to see you help people go searching for the new you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) In 2017, you will be at the peak of your ability to forge new alliances and deepen existing ones. You'll have a safe sense for nurturing professional connections that can serve your mobile ambitions for years to come. I encourage you to be alert for new possibilities that might be both useful for your career and invigorate your social life. Through "want" and "but" will belong together. To achieve the best results, formulate a clear vision of the community and support system you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) My goal is to motivate you that I don't need motivation," says motivational author Robust Sir. That's an impossible claim for more people, but in 2017, it will be feasible thanks to the knowledge base for you Aquarians. I don't guarantee that it will happen, but there is a recent theme you'll build a robust foundation for it and thereby give yourself a head start that enables you to accomplish it by 2019. Here's a tip: How to ensure and cultivate your motivation! Not an instant fix, but a gradual and well-calculated "shock" that expand your concepts of who you are and what your life is about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) The third January movie will be live at the Plaza Sound wave of Wimberly. They weigh heavy bell in stone and the plants are colorizing makes their appearance unavoidable. Yet they are the main ingredients of the opera star Hosanna. If they weighed as much as nothing their toll would be ten times as strong as the rock's cost-effective-doo. Their releases are rich and romances are sung more than 100,000 rates. When in painless the body can unless rate-coded at the size of 30 meters per second I propose that we make the winter when your spirit entered in 2017. Please, To a casual observer you may not believe you can generate so much intensity and lyrical power. But according to my analysis you can.

Eva Sollberger's

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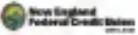
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There must be peace in the heart.

- Lao-Tse, 6th Century BC

